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ANALYSIS Shop around the clock PAGE 18

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1997

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New Labour motors home

Blair sees Wirral by-election as the writing on the wall for Major

Anthony Bevins and Colin Brown

A Wirral South by-election drubbing for John Major last night left Labour and the Tories gearing up for the make-or-break battle to come the May general election.

Labour said: "No party has ever lost a by-election so close to a general election, in a seat they had won at the previous general election, and gooe on to win the general election."

The Tories countered with a cal-culated leak of their latest "secret" polling, claiming they had reduced Labour's lead to '11 percentage points – well within striking distance with two months' campaigning to go.
In the 1992 election, the Conser-

vatives held blue-chip Wirral South with a formidable 16.3 per cent, 8.183-vote majority, and the loss of the seat so close to a general election will undoubtedly hammer Tory morale. It was the Tories' 126th most marginal seat.

arginal seat.

But John Major's close advisers Cruising to victory: Labour's Ben Chapman on the Wirral campaign trail with Lewisham East MP Bridget Prentice yesterday believe they still have all to fight for, guing that public opinion polls are seriously exaggerating the Labour lead, and that the Conservatives always decress the Labour vote in gen-

eral election campaigns.
In Wirral itself, Tory campaign managers were confident that they would get the seat back in a May general election, though Labour sources said at Westminster. Tories who have voted Labour in the Wirral cannot be doing so as a protest. There is no time left for the Gov-

emment to change its ways. We have. Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of no doubt that, having taken such a serious decision at this stage of the election cycle, most of them will stay with Labour."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the grand committee would be given powers to meet in Ulster, and that it would be provided with a legisla-

However, in a clear attempt to give itself maximum room for manoeuvre, the Government last night announced a blatant political sweet-ener for the Ulster Unionists, offering enhanced powers for the Northern Ireland Grand Committee. Acceding to a Unionist demand,

Union with the rest of the United David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, signalled yesterday that his following completion of his legisla-party would not seek to hring the tive programme, and an Easter

tive role. The move will be welcomed

by the Umonists because it further

hinds Northern Ireland into the

Government down over the next few weeks, eveo though the loss of

Wirral South again drives the Government into a Commons minority. Without Unionist support, there is no point in Labour putting down Commons motion of to confidence, in an attempt to force an early election. Mr Major is therefore left free to announce an eventual dissolution of Parliament for 8 April,

tive programme, and an Easter

break, in time for his preferred option of a 1 May election.

With ministers braced for a weekend of panic over the Tories' showing in Wirral South, the Conservatives' private polling shows that Labour's lead of 19 per cent before Christmas, was being whittled down until Gordon Brown announced Labour's commitment not to increase spending for two years, and to fix the rates of income tax at their present level.

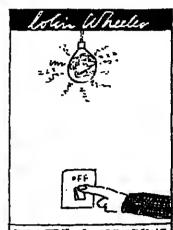
Those two pledges - coupled with

Photograph: David Rose

a national poster campaign featuring Tony Blair - may have dismayed traditiooal Labour supporters, but have stopped the Tories narrowing

the gap any further.
The tracking polling by Conservative Central Office is a closelyguarded secret, but the results have beco revealed to ministers who were claiming last night that it shows there

is still "all to play for". The results of the polling, which Tory strategists are studying close-



ly, underline the importance of the lories' attack on Labour on tax. Morale in Conservative Central Office has improved from a low base because of the polling results, and it remains stoical. The thing that could finish us is the "time-for-achange factor," said one minister, who has seen the polling. "Even some of our own supporters are saying it's not good for democracy to have one par-

ty in power for 20 years," Labour is exploiting that vulnerability by condemning Conservative ambitions to create a "one-party

At a Westminster press briefing yesterday, Mr Trimble welcomed moves by the Government to show it was "listening" to Ulster Unionist concerns.

He received a guarantee this week in a personal letter from the Prime Minister that Ulster would be included in a scheme to cut the business rates by more than half for village shops, post offices, and other village premises, such as the village

"bought off", Mr Trimble said he doubted that Labour would attempt to hring down the Government before 1 May "because they are hav-ing difficulty in getting their vote out" in the House of Commons. "What is the point of a couple of

weeks if you had an early election? You would have Easter in the middle of the campaign. I can see pros and cons with that, but more cons, Mr Trimble said.

Continental rifts: protectionism will harm consumers, but Euroscepticism has its dangers too

EU trade ban will cause fruit shortage

lan Burrelt.

British supermarkets face severe shortages of oranges, grapefruits and other citrus fruits this summer because of highly-cootentious import restrictions being planned in Brussels. Furious British food im-

porters accused the European Union of using "pseudo-scienufic" arguments to set up an effective trade ban on fruit from South Africa and South America, from where Britain gets its entire summer citrus crop.
Food industry sources said yes-

protecting European citrus plants from pests - could set a catastrophic precedent for the organic fruit and vegetable market.
The EU Standing Committee
on Plant Health is due to decide today whether to impose a ban on citrus fruits from countries affected by the non-European fruit fly and other plant pests, juniess they are subjected to ex-

And a beer to go

pensive treatments. The move, led by Greece. would hand the European cittus market to Mediterranean producers. Greece, Italy, Spain and Corsica produce citrus dur-tons of citrus fruit each year and South Africa, which is seeo ing the winter. Produce is kept from this source, with 98,000 as a threat by some member

in cold storage for local markets

survive shipment to Britain. The restrictions would also bring chronic shortages of orange juice in the late summer, when most juicing oranges are imported from the southern

The Ministry of Agriculture is fighting the restrictions but Britain has been isolated by other member states who are sympathetic to the producer countries of the Mediterranean.

British officials in Brussels spoke yesterday of their fears of terday that the proposed re-strictions - ostensibly aimed at unnecessary restrictions being put into place. "We are con-cerned about what the trade effects are going to be, particularly for the South African and Zimbabwean producers," said one. "The other non-producing states do not appear to have woken up to the possible effects

on consumers and suppliers.". Traditionally Britons have eaten little citrus fruit in the summer because of poor quality. During the past decade, eating habits have been changed by imports of superior fruit from the

southern hemisphere. Britain now imports 186,000



Oranges and lemons: Britons may find citrus fruit in short supply this summer if EU import restrictions come into force

tons coming from South Africa states because of its low proand 53,000 tons from Argentina and Uroguay. During the win-ter, the market switches to southern Europe, Israel and the

The pests identified by the Brussels committee pose no risk to human health and have never caused any problems to the British supply trade. The fruit flies die when they encounter the British climate.

The proposed restrictions come against a background of arguments over moves for closer trade links between Europe duction costs.

Doug Henderson, chief executive of the Fresh Produce Consortium, said: "The south-ern member states are using plant health regulations as a means of protecting their market inside Europe ... [The moves will restrict competition.

push up prices." The EU committee may agree a compromise, allowing the import of citrus fruit which has been subjected to chilling and vapour treatments. Such treatments would not be possible for this year's crop.

restrict consumer choice and

Asian firms' investment in **UK tumbles**

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The Government's claim that its European policy poses no threat to inward investment is called into question today by a United Nations report showing that the UK's share of foreign investment in the European Union has fallen sharply.

Today, Adair Turner, the Confederation of British Industry's director general, will is-sue an unusually outspoken warning against the dangers of British isolation from Europe.

These alarm signals will severely embarrass the Government, which has always claimed that its opt out from the social chapter and other signs of semidetachedness actively attract overseas businesses. However, it is likely to strengthen the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's pro-European positinn against the sceptics in the Cabinet.

Mr Tirmer, in a speech to businessmen in Cardiff, will say that Europhobia is increasing Britain's isolation within the EU. "Our views will go unheeded, our in-fluence will diminish. Ultimately our access to the single market could be at risk - to our enormous economic disadvantage."

backed by the normally Eurosceptic Institute of Directors yesterday. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the rival employers' organisaonn, said: "In so far as there is a feeling among overseas investors that Britain might cut loose from the EU, this is a matter for concern."

Mr Turner's warnings are given extra force by today's re-port from the UN's Conference on Trade and Development. This shows that Britain's share of rising investment in Europe by foreign companies, espe-cially from Japan and the rest of Asia, has shrunk.

Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "These figures show how hollow are the Tory boasts on inward investment. The UK share of inward investment from the Far East has dropped fast."

Today's developments follow warnings by big companies that the UK's negative attitude to its European partners and the single currency might affect their investment plans. Japanese car manufacturer Toyota, Germany's Siemens, and British-based companies including BP and Unilever have all spoken out.

ACADEMY AWARD

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE PIANO' A FILM BY JANE CAMPION

MALKOVICH KIDMAN



STARTS TODAY ~ AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU

he viden referee alls or TV replays to be used ollowid Wednesday's penalty in the Chelsea v Leices-Page 27 Cup match.

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significant shorts

Accused stab girl 'feared violence against herself'

A girl accused of murdering teeoage hairdresser Katie Rackliff was herself frightened of being stabbed, a court was told yesterday. Winchester Crown Court heard that she told a probation officer: "When I die, someone will have to shoot me, because I couldn't be stabbed." Probation officer Sarah Brydon told the court: "She said,

It must be awful, knowing what's happening."

The girl, now 17, was 12 at the time of the attack on Katie, 18, in June 1992. The girl, who for legal reasons cannot be named, denies murder. Katic. from Hawley, Hampshire, suffered 29 stab wounds, tocluding injuries to her genitals.

Police chief rejects masons call

Greater Manchester's police chief has refused to introduce a register for Freemasons, in defiance of advice from his national governing body. David Wilmot, the Chief Constable, is believed to be the first in the country to go against the recommendation of the Association of Chief Police Officers that all serving members of the United Kingdom's 43 police forces should declare membership of

Mr Wilmot was said to be against the register, which he regarded as "unconstitutional" and "an infringement of personal

Royal presence on the Web

Can you make an anorak out of ermine? And what does the Oueen think is cool? The answers may be revealed next week when the Ougen gets her own site on the World Wide Web. She will join the ranks of caffeine-fuelled American adolescents with 150 pages of information about royal topics, from finance to descriptions of the palaces and the private estates.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that the site's World Wide Web address will not be revealed until it is officially launched on Thursday. "In the modern day and age, if there's a Web out there the Queen should be on it," said a spokeswoman. "We don't all use quill pens here, you know - we're on computers too." She would not say whether the site will contain "hot links" to other Web addresses - a popular way of pointing surfers to "cool" sites.

Modern-day St Trinians banned



A bus company has banned almost 1,000 schoolchildren following a series of attacks on drivers and vehicles.

The Provincial Bus Company in Portsmouth, Hants, has hanned pupils from the King Richard secondary school from using its buses to travel to and from school. Parents have received a letter from the school's headteacher informing them their children will not be able to use Provincial buses from next Monday, The company said it decided to

impose the week-long ban after an upsurge of violence and vandalism in which drivers reported windows smashed, emergency exits opened and money stolen.

Mike Smith, Provincial operations director, said: "There has been a series of very serious events on buses. We've had numerous complaints from passengers saying 'who in their right mind would get oo a bus with these animals?"."

Head teacher Peter Warburton, said the school had made a great effort to improve pupils' behaviour on buses and had taken disciplinary action against some. Angry parents claimed the company was over-reacting and some threatened to keep their children off school rather than see them face a long walk

Murdered aunt case goes to appeal

The case of Sheila Bowler, jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of her late husband's elderly aunt, has been referred to the Court of Appeal hy Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. Bowler, a music teacher from Rye, East Sussex, was found guilty at Hove Crown Court of pushing 89-year-old Florence Jackson into the River Brede, apparently to secure her inheritance from being eaten up by nursing home fees

On I May 1995, she appealed against her conviction but the appeal judges did not accept the expert geriatric evidence put before them that Aunt Flo could have been much more mobile than anyone realised.

Mr Howard has now decided that new material submitted by her laywers - primarily medical evidence about the mobility of elderly people – has merited her case being sent back for a second appeal.

Grania Langdon-Down



Picking over bones of the past to unravel a legend

celebrate St David's Day tomorrow. with the news that the remains of its patron. saint are not where they were thought to be. For years, legend has had it that the bones of the saint were in a wooden casket discovered in the last. century in the stone walls of St David's Cathedral. Inside the box were the bones of three people, in-cluding what many believed to be the bones of St David, because they fitted the description of the saint. Had the bones proven to be the wal thing, many as being a tall man, around 6t - highly unusual for In the principality believed it would have boosted

But samples of the bones taken for analysis and dating at Oxford University's Radio Carbon Accel. David's and the 126th incumbent since David himerator Unit, which employs techniques similar to those ... self, sald: "In the 16th century there was a determined used on the Turin Shroud, have now proved that the effort to break up the cult of St David and the offiremains are those of an 11th or 12th-century man who ate a lot of fish; possibly Saint Caradog, who

have been those of David, who died in 601, who was: canonized by the Pope in 1120 and whose relics first: ing place of the remains of St David. And the relics went missing in 1538.

Involved forensic pathologist Professor Bernard

The Dean of St David's, the Very Rev Wyn Evans, himself an archaeologist, said the results and the new found link with Caradog were surprising and intriguing: th means the early history of St David's Cathedral will have to be re-written," he added.

tourism. The Rt Rev Huw Jones, the current Bishop of St

class shrine and relics disappeared. Until then, pilgrimages here had a high profile. Three pilgrimages to St David's were the equivalent of one to Jerusalem The analysis showed that the remains could not and two were the equivalent of a journey to Rome."

... The search may now start again for the final restcanonized by the Pope in 1120 and went-missing in 1538.

The controversial findings of the analysis were revealed to the Welsh preople last night in 117 v s in dial where they have lain for the last 900 years. Search of David, documentary, which followed the

briefing

ABORTION

Poll shows wide acceptance of women's right to choose

Two-thirds of the public believe abortion should be made legally available for all who want it - a 10 per cent increase on 10st according to the latest opinion poll on the issue, published yesterday. An even larger majority of the public support the right to an abortion where the woman's life or health are in danger or if she has been raped.

Although there is a significant drop in the number of people backing abortion where it is likely the haby would be born mentally or physically handicapped, there is still support from more than two-thirds of the public.

The poll, described as the most definitive study of public attitudes to abortion since 1980, was carried out by MORI. It was attitudes to abortion since 1980, was carried out by MORI. commissioned by the Birth Control Trust, which supports the right of women to make their own choices about pregnancy and

There was little difference between the views of men and women. Those aged 25-34 were most likely to back the right to an abortion. And the more affluent an individual was, the more likely he or she was to agree with abortion, although the difference between social classes was not particularly marked.

Surprisingly, 50 per cent of Roman Catholics backed the right to

an abortion - contravening the Church's teaching on the matter, compared with 38 per cent who disagreed.

MOTORING

Car care takes a back seat

Most motorists have no driving ambition to care for their cars, says a survey out today. Only one third say their car is sumething they can enjoy, while nearly half only wash their vehicles on an occasional basis, said the survey, from the Direct Line insurance company. Just one in 10 of the 1,600 car-owners questioned described car ownership as a source of alcountry.

described car ownership as a source of pleasure.

"It seems that increased time pressures in our lives, and busier roads, mean than enjoying and caring for our cars has become a low priority," said Annetic Court, Direct Line's motor insurance business manager.

Crime may be one of the causes of driver discontent. Another poll, by the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association, found that a fifth of car owners had suffered vehicle crime in the last year and one-in-three drivers expected to be a victim in the next 12



AGRICULTURE

Making more of salad days

Britain's growers must turn to speciality crops in a bid to boost the country's withering salad industry, according to research published today. The study by scientists at Strathclyde University, said improve the country's £224m salad industry.

Britain has the lowest salad consumption rate in Europe. according to the report. It said UK consumers eat only 15kg of salads a year, compared to the Spanish, who cat more than 95kg. The study's authors said producers should not concentrate on commodity products, but must focus on speciality lines, such as

cherry, truss and plum tomatoes, unusual varieties of lettuce and

other leaf crops.

The British salad industry produces around 400,000 tonnes of produce worth £224m in retail terms. The European industry is worth around £6bn. Spain is the largest producer of salads, with 5.1million tonnes produced in 1994 - 55 per cent of the market. Britain is one of Europe's major salad importers, accounting for more than half of domestic consumption.

EDUCATION

Welsh should be allowed to die

Welsh children's prospects are being blighted by misguided attempts to preserve the Welsh language, says a paper published of today by the Social Affairs Unit. Welsh, it argues, should be allowed to die. Then it might survive as many dead languages have

- as a language of poetry and myth.

Children are taught in Welsh in most schools in the counties of Gwynedd and Dyfed, and Welsh is a compulsory subject in most schools in the rest of Wales. Yet four-fifths of people in the principality do not speak Weish. So four-fifths of children are spending time learning o language that will be no use to them, since all Weish speakers also speak English.

Profesor Christie Davies, a sociologist from Reading University

says that if the language were allowed to die: "Dead Welsh could then be the Latin of the peoples of Britain."

Loyalty Misplaced, £12.95 plus £1.50 postage, the Social Affairs Unit, 314-322 Regent Street, London WI SAB.

Judith Jud

HEALTH

First cut is the deepest Male babies circumcised without anaesthetic have heightened pain

responses for months afterwards, suggesting the way their bodies perceive pain is altered. According to a paper in the Lancet, those who were circumcised reacted most strongly to vaccinations, four to six months later. The authors suggested that increased pain reactions so long afterwards may be because the memory of carly distress was re-experienced, triggered by the pain of the injurity.
The infants' reactions were videotaped, and the percentage of time they cried and certain facial features (brows bulging, eyes squeezed

shut and furrow between the nose and upper lip) were measured. Uncircumcised infants showed least pain while those circumcised without anaesthetic were in greatest pain. Glenda Cooper

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the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Widow wins final battle for frozen sperm

Diane Blood (right), the widow who battled for two years to have her dead husband's baby, was yesterday granted final permission to be artificially inseminated in a Belgian clinic.

She celebrated with Champagne, and immediately rang her parents in law, after the Homan Fertilisation and Embryology Authority unanimously decided to allow her to export her late husband's sperm for treatment.

thority, which is thought to have epent £100,000 fighting the case, said it had finally agreed to the ex-Port after a High Court ruling in Mrs Blood's favour, it had written to her solicitors and to the clinic where the sperm is stored. "This is the only way to resolve

the tragic situation for Mrs Blood, one which will not arise again." said Mrs Deech. "We've been concerned throughout to uphold the integrity of the principle of consent and we are pleased that the Court of Appeal has confirmed this." Asked if she felt the HFEA

should apologise to the widow, Mrs Deech said: "I don't think an apology is called for because all the way our view of UK lew has been upheld by the courts." She added that if the Court of



wonderful news. I am very, very relieved." said Mrs Blood. "I am slightly bewildered still and I don't yet fully believe it."

She said she had not yet made any firm arrangements for her treatment, adding: "I have felt unable to make any arrangements so

Glenda Cooper and

Appeal had not been sufficiently explicit, the body would have refused her wishes once again. "This is obviously wonderful,

"It has just been a long time and so many emotions, I don't think I can sum it up. There have been so many different emotions."

far. I am glad now to be able to speak to people sensibly and make arrangements."

Ruth Deech, chairman of the au-

David Garfinkel

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The BBC sought to quell accusations of left-wing bies on the eve of the general election by conceding last night that it was wrong to grant paid leave to Ben Bradshaw, a high-profile Radio 4 presenter who is

fighting a key marginal seat for the Labour Party. To reinforce its commitment to political impartiality, the corporation also made it clear that Joy Johnson, a former Labour Party communciations director, hired recently on a short-term contract ,would have no involvement in editorial matters or programme-making during the election campaign.

Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, said that the position of Mr Bradshaw, who has not worked

maid's tribunal Diana, Princess of Wales, may have to give evidence at an industrial tribunal when her former maid sues her for wrongful dismissal next week, it emerged

Diana may be

called to sacked

Lawyers acting for Sylvia McDermott, who lost her cleaning Job at Kensington Palace in November, said they were considering seeking a witness order - the industrial tribunal equivalent of a court subpoena which would oblige her to attend. Solicitor Anu Kapoor of Michael,

Army and Partners, who is acting for the maid, said: "The lawyers for the Princess of Wales have confirmed that she will not be attending, so we are considering seeking a witness order.
"If it is granted, then she will be

obliged to attend.
"The hearing on Wednesday 5 March is to seek to secure an order that Sylvia McDermott be re-

employed by the Princess." The maid joined the household of the Prince and Princess of Wales in July 1987 and stayed with Diana when the couple separated in 1992. Her duties involved dusting and cleaning the royal apartments.

The dismissal is alleged to have come after two face-to-face meetings with the princess.

BBC changes policy over Labour candidate

since being selected as Labour'e prospective parliamentary candidate for Exeter, had been reviewed. He is now to be found some non-politically sensitive work until the election is called and will not be paid when he takes leave during the campaign.

The fact that we were unable to find him sufficient, sulfable non-editorial work was a failure of management and I regret that," said Mr Hall, adding: "I be-lieve we should have dealt with this Issue with a greater sense of urgency." He expained that Mr Bradshaw had been removed from any involvement in editorial work in order to protect programmes from any suspicion of partiality.



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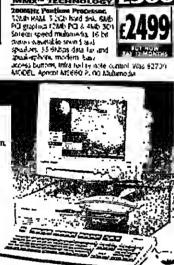
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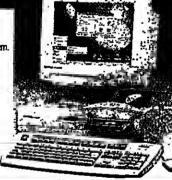
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Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Radical government plans to restrict the right to a crown court jury trial for scores of criminal offences came under concerted attack yesterday.

As lawyers and civil liberties roups condemned the proposas a uninst and unnece it also became clear that it could lead to thousands of criminals getting lighter sentences from magistrates, contrary to the "get tough" message of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary – but saving millions of pounds of expenditure on jails.

In a Commons statement on a review of delay in the criminal justice system, jointly commis-sioned by Mr Howard, the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General last autumn, the Home Secretary made the radical sng-gestion that if all its 33 recom-mendations were implemented almost all defendants would be

While it has undoubtedly passed into our constitutional frame-

work, the right of a defendant

Before 1855, there were only

two categories of offence -

those triable only on indict-

ment and those triable only

After that, the distinction be-

ministration of Justice Act

allowed JPs to try minor larce-

made for diminishing expense and delay in the administration

of criminal justice". The list of "either way" offences expand-

ed, most notably in the 1925

Criminal Justice Act, which in-

cluded for the first time such

crimes as serious theft offences,

dates from 1855

came hiurred. The 1855 Ad- al Commission on Criminal Jus-

nies (dishonesty offences), with have an absolute veto over a

the consent of the accused. The magistrate's decision to retain changes were said to have been jurisdiction. IPs should consid-

ed, the day after being charged. The proposals were warmly welcomed by the police. But it was equally clear yesterday that much more work remains to be

done on the package - no de-tailed cost/benefit analysis has been obtained and no cut-off date for consultation has been specified - while Mr Howard conceded that he would have to consider the "especially sensitive" proposal for restricting jury trial "particularly carefully". The objective of reducing delay was emphasised in recent

speeches to magistrates by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, in advance of yesterday's pa-per, drawn up by Martin Narey, a senior Home Office official. But there was hostile reaction sterday to the paper's suggestion that the venue for so-

ily harm and some forgery of-fences. Ministers claim that

or increase their chances of ac-

quittal, Supporters of the right

claim it is vital in dishonesty cas-

'es where a conviction stains a

person's character. But, like

yesterday's paper, the 1993 Roy-

tice recommended that

defendants should no longer

er factors including the defen-

dant's previous reputation and

past record, the gravity and

compenty of the case and the

tikely effect on the accused,

'Ancient' right

At present, 56 per cent of de-fendants in crown courts receive costs and leading to capital savings equivalent to three or four jails. "This is not about

the commission said.

be decided by magistrates. Mr-Howard told MPs that about 20 per cent of all those tried in crown courts - about 24,000 defendants each year - insisted on being tried there despite instices having decided the case was suitable for them. "About twothirds of those defendants then

plead guilty at the crown court."

Defendants with a good reason for a jury trial, including "defending an unblemished reputation", would be able to argue the reasons before the magistrates, Mr Howard said.

But there was condemna-tion from the Law Society and the Bar. Robert Owen QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said many thousands of people would lose their right to be tried in front of a jury of ordinary men and women at a time when the crown court system was coping with the demands on it.

Mr Howard told MPs that total savings to the criminal jus-tice system flowing from the report could amount to £110m, of which £70m would relate to the proposal to limit jury trials.
The Home Office estimates

that some 18,000 offenders would be tried by magistrates. who can only imprison for a maximum of six months, rather than crown court juries if the plans were implemented. to elect trial by jury is not as anmany defendants who elect jury
cient as sometimes believed.

trial do so to delay proceedings

a jail sentence. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, estimated that even if all these got the maximum jail sentence available to magistrates, the daily prison population would drop by 2,500, saving £50m a year in running quality of justice. It's about saving money," he said.

The paper contains a range of

further controversial suggestions likely to provoke criticism, including switching 17-year-olds to adult courts and restrictions on the use of lawyers Patricia Wynn Davies by those pleading not guilty.



Butcher reopens with a clean slate

Steve Boggan

He looked like a man waking from a long dream. Or, as he put it, a nightmare.

Eighteen people had died and more than 400 had fallen ill since John Barr last opened his butcher's shop for business, so twisting the lock on the door was no easy matter. "I didn't sleep much last night," he said. "I can't say I'm happy to open up again; so many people have died. But let's say I'm relieved."

Mr Barr's shop in Wishaw, outside Glasgow, was closed three months ago after the death of Harry Shaw, aged 80, the first of 18 people to succumb to the deadly effects of E.coli 0157 bacteria poisoning.

The butcher is facing a charge of culpable and reckless conduct over the supply of cold meats which caused iliness, but no deaths, at an 18th birthday party. But environmental bealth officials gave him the all-clear to reopen yesterday after satis-

fying themselves that his shop presented no risk to the public. Pennington's report to the letter His staff of 30-plus - who he and possibly even further than had continued to pay during the that to make sure that the pubcrisis-turned out in crisp white lic is 150 per cent safe," said Mr Barr, a quietly-spoken man of 51, well-loved in the community but uniforms, smiling hroadly as they brought out tray after tray clearly deeply affected by what has happened. There has been of pristine meats. And, in line with the recommendations of Professor Hugh Pennington, the microbiologist appointed to

The past three mooths have been a complete nightmare. There were times at the beginget the phone calls and more than 600 letters and cards of support from as far away as Australia and America. And then I began to wonder what would happen to my staff if I closed, and I knew I would have to try again, " Lawyers for the hundreds

nothing to prove it came from here," he said defensively. who fell ill said yesterday that they felt it was too soon for the butcher to reopen. Paul Santoni, who is representing more than 60, and Lucy Kennedy, who has more than 30 E.coli clients,

"We have followed Professor er reopen, but then I began to said Mr Barr's prosecution should have come first. But, in Wishaw, they were in the minority. Most others were delighted that their favourite

> through the door at 7.30am was a 22-year-old microbiology student who bought two meat hridies - or pies - costing 88p. "My family have been coming here for years and we're out going to stop now," said David Goodwin. By 10am the shop was packed with customers and goodwill, with backslapping and congratulations, Customers and staff were anxious to convey

butcher had reopened. First

bereaved hut, gradually, a carnival atmosphere descended. Outside, six elderly women

their condoleoces to the

E. coli victim dies in Norfolk

An elderly woman has died in a Norfolk hospital from E. coli food poisoning, a spokeswoman said yesterday.
Alice Gourley, 67, died at the

investigate the ontbreak, there

were oow two counters; one for

cooked and another for

James Paget Hospital, Great Yarmonth, after a two-week struggle against the infection. The hospital spokeswoman emphasised that her death was

EARLY

BOOKERS

believed to be a "totally isolated incident". The hospital had lannched a

thorough investigation. The food poisoning outbreak

has claimed 20 lives in Scotland over the last three months. David Horusey, chief environmental officer for Great Yarmauth Borough Council,

said ao investigation had already been carried not. "The incubatino period can

be as long as 7 to 10 days or as little as three days. Her infectino was reported at the heginning of this month - so I can be quite confident that if there were any more cases, we would have heard about them by now."

rounded a corner and, wearing sashes bearing the word "Con-gratulations", skipped down the road towards the shop singing a song they had made up. It was terribly sung but the chorus weot: "If yae're no John Barr. theo yae're no use tae us..."



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PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS



Blair 2/10

If Biair thought Major should have acted on the report already, he might have said so; if not, he might have asked about something else. lo-stead he pursued the same topic.

John Major pleaded ignorance of Blair's chosen top-Major ic, a Defence Select Committee report on De-2/10 fence Medical Services. He seld he hadn't yet read the report, but he "most cartainty would".

«Gulf War Syndrome (Neil Gerrard, Lab, Walthamstow, Alex Salmond, SNP, Bardt and Buchan, Paddy Ashdown and Blair)

fication of school test results (Bavid Congdon, C, Croydon) •The Army reserve (Tim Rathbone, C, Lewes)

*The BSE crisis in Scotland (Andrew Welsh, SNP, Angus East) Dead stoweways arriving in New Holland and Immingham (Michael Brown, C, Brigg and Cleathorpes)-

BLAIR'S ATTACK and Major accept the Defence Select Committee's report in its criticisms of MoD medical provision? "Of course we will examine the report" said Major. Stair then asked Major, if he didn't like what he read, who would take responsibility? "I suggest the Rt Hon Gentleman wests until we have examined it, of course we will," said Major. Stair clearly thought Might should have read the report, and have answers, but he devoted his tilled question to a soundbite: "when does anyone in this Government ever take responsibility



the argument against the Government edy in Mil tumble and then to resort to angry

plaint about stouraways: "although they are illegal firming arts, they are arriving dead and something needs to



In his anger at John Prescott's catcalls, the resorted to an un-perflamentary but evocative image: "There is a word for that, I believe it's hypocrisy, Madam Speaker". and it's absolutely and it seeps. It seeps out of the Deputy Leader of the Labour Perty." THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Gerrard on Guif War Syndrome: "Doesn't this dental of responsi-bility prove that the Hon Member for Old Bedey and Sidcup's [Sir Edward Heath's] assessment of the Sessitary of State for Defence [Michael Portillo] as 'not honourable was spot on?"

THE CREEP OF THE DAY Congdon: "Does my Rt. Hon. Friend agree that the publication of examination results has led to significant increase in standards in secondary schools? . . . Can my Rithon Friend assure the House that the Government will do all those to resist about the control of the control



Polling: Two voters leaving Victoria Hall, Bebington, during the Wirral South by election yesterday Photograph: David Rose

Child medicines fear

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Childreo are being prescribed hundreds of medicines which have never been properly tested or licensed for use on very young people, a cross-party committee of MPs said in a Commons report criticising the NHS for failing to cater more for children's needs.

Paediatricians are left having to guess child dosages as a percentage of the adult dose, and some medicines which are giv-

en to children - such as Vitamin K, given to babies at birth are not licensed for humans. One medicine used no premature babies to help them

children under three. The Commons Select Comformer Conservative minister Marion Roe, said it was "astonished" to discover that medicines tested and licensed for without proper checks. The

hreathe has never been ap-

proved and is not intended for

MPs said the public would also be astonished at the discovery. Many medicines currently given to the children are administrated by a route, in a formulating, or in a dosage which has not been approved by the

Medicines Control Agency. The Government has been mittee nu Health, chaired by aware of the lack of checks on children's medicines since a working party report in December 1995.

Department of Health offiadults were given to children cials said the situation was "clearly unsatisfactory", but

pointed nut that the Medicines Control Agency had no evi-dence that any children had suffered harm as a result of a lack of specific testing and licensing for children.

Expressing deep concern, the MPs said: "In the absence of a satisfactory system of testing and licensing, we cannot know that this is the case, nor can we know of the minority of cases - possibly a very tiny mi-nority - where children have suffered actual harm from taking such medicines."

Audrey Wise, a Labour member of the committee said the MPs did not want parents to panic. "There is this guestimate' attitude and I don't think we would stand for that with adults," she added.

Experts in child health said parents should oot fear their children were at risk.

The most commonly used medicines such as cough mixtures and antibiotics are fully tested on children before being sold over the counter or prescribed.

The committee has spent months investigating children's health, and said it did not produce a more comprehensive report because of the shortage of time before the general elec-

But its findings will put children's health high on the agenda for whichever party is



.com

Disgrace in favour as Labour riposte

The word "disgrace" is currently the Labour abuseword of choice. It can be lengthened levingly to a satisfying "ab-so-lute disss-greace", or - enhanced by two saliva bursts - spat out for that desirable Added Contempt effect. Since it took over from the much more unwieldy "obscenity" (about a month ago), there has been a competition among Labour backbeochers to see who can deliver it with most venom.

Eric Prentice, a John Laurie soundalike from Penule, is currently winning. Poor Mr Prentice inhabits an exhausting world. Too much milk io your tea? Disgraceful! Been in the bathroom too long? It's a disgrace!

So, when his colleague, Neil Gerrard (Walthamstow), asked the Prime Minister a question about the victims of Gulf war syndrome, it was naturally a "disgrace" that "nonoe in government is prepared to accept personal responsibility!" (ie. to resign). Mr Major told him - without too much rancour - that there would be compensation for victims, but that first "we need to establish what caused the ailments". Action would theo follow.

"Give us Soames!" shouted Tony Banks, in an inaccurate Biblical reference to the crowd's demand for Barubbas to be freed "Disgracefull" shouted other, more conventional Labour MPs, but Mr Major looked to have weathered the storm. Especially since Tony Blair then asked about a related, but unlinked, issue - a Defence Select Committee report published that morning - on defence medical services. This painted a picture of the armed forces returning to the days of bloody-aproned sawbones conducting al fresco amputations without anaesthetic.

Theoretically this question was easier for the Prime Minister. He had not read the report, he told Mr Blair. He'd heard of it, sure, but he hadn't actually read it. He would read it, of course he would. And when he had, wild horses would not be able to prevent him from commenting. Mr Blair persisted. If, when he did read the report, he found that things were dreadful, "which minister will take responsibility?" Mr Blair should wait, replied the PM.

until the report had beeo read. But he was able to welcome the report's endorsement of aspects of the Government's policy. "But you said you hadn't read it!". shouted Labour, "I haven't read it!" Mr Major shouted back, rattled. "It's a disgrace!" replied Labour, happily.

The degree of the PM's rattlement became apparent

later when John Prescott interrupted a high-pitched Major peroration on the danger of trades unions, by calling out "wait till Wirral tonight!" "Wait till Wirral he says!" yelled the PM, his voice rising to glass-threatening pitch. "He doesn't address the issue! He is steeped in

hypocrisy!" "Ynu're a disgrace!" someone shuuted buck.
The mood of chaotic despair spread from the leader to
the led. In a contribution that testifies to the terrible confusion that happens when humanity meets Howardism, Michael Brown (C, Brigg and Cleethorpes) raised the question of stowaways arriving at the port of Immingham. Fleeing from Nigeria and Sierra Leone, many were suffering. He finished thus: "These people, are travelling in dreadful conditions. Although they are illegal immigrants they are arriving dead. And something needs to be done about it!"

There was a moment of silence. Then, on Labour's front bench, Frank "Beaver" Dobson began to laugh - ar first surreptitiously like a naughty schoolboy, and then out loud, his furry face becoming a nocturne in red and silver. And those behind him, for whom the words "immigrants" and "dreadful conditions", usually conjure up one word only - "disgrace" - also began to giggle and some to guffaw. Yesterday - for Labour - everything was a haxt.

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Tebbit pours scorn on Heseltine the fixer

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Further evidence of the deep-seated personal detestation felt by leading Conservatives for their party colleagues was provided yesterday by Lord Tebbit in a review of a bonk nn Michael Heseltine.

Writing of his former Cabinet colleague, Lord Tebbit said: "At times his conduct has been tasteless, tacky if not dishon-ourable, and self-centred beyond even the call of his profession." In a review of Michael

Crick's new biography of the Deputy Prime Minister, he wrote in the Speciator. The only thing for which Heseltine will be remembered, [is] the political regizide which brought down our greatest post-war He said that as an adolescent,

Mr Heseltine turned himself into a political missile, target-ed on the office of Prime Minister. "Like a laser-guided weapon, nnce assigned to his mission, Heseltine has remained on track ever since."

But Lord Tebbit took evideot satisfaction from his conclusion, that the missile's chances of hitting its target - Number 10 were fast receding. "It is still oo track but running out of fuel," he said, "and the target is

accelerating away".

As for the book's judgement,
Lord Tebbit said: "Heseltine appears as a man of no great political insight, but a shrewd political operator, driven by ambition rather than idealism. Neither particularly left or right, a corporatist and fixer by instinct and practice, he could never un-derstand Margaret Thatcher."

But he also alleged that there was an inbuilt male-chauvinism at work, saying: "At the roots of his hostility to her is a macho streak which sees nnly a subservient role for womeo, however talented, and a resentment that a woman achieved the supreme nffice which he coveted and which was denied him."

Balancing an essentially hostile verdict on the Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Tebbit said that in spite of bungled privatisations of the Post Office and coal, it

would be wrong to forget Mr Heseltine's successes, "His establishment of the Audit Commissinn, the creatinn of the Urbao Development Corporations and his successful campaign against CND [Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament weigh heavily in his faynur."

But his overall verdict is negative. "Heseltine's laser-guided system can focus on only one target at a time," he said. "He is a supremely good one-ball juggler, but a prime minister must keep a dozeo or more halls in the air and that he could not do."

The Tory hile later spit over to the left of the party wher. Sir Nicholas Scott, a firmer min-ister, defended Mr Heseltine, saying Lord Tebbit had "gone over the top" and that he was longer regarded as "a scrious player in the political field". As for Lord Tebbit's charge of dishonourable conduct in pursuit of the leadership, Sir Nicholas

told Radio 4's The World at One: "I don't believe he has pur-

sued that ambition in any sort of

underhand way. He has been

open. He has been articulate.

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Long Carrie soundalike from Pendle, Para Mr Prentice inhabits an ion much milk in your tea! Disgracely om too long? It's a disgrace! came. Neil Gerrand (Walthamstow). d was naturally a "disgrace" that "noto prepared to accept personal to resign). Mr Major told him - within

that there would be compensation for a we need to establish what caused the would then follow. - figured fony Banks, in an inaccurae o the stowd's demand for Barabbas to hill shouled other, more convenional At Major looked to have weathered the area four Blar then asked about a cit, osue - a Defence Select Committee all menting - on defence medical

ted a picture of the armed forces as at bloody-aproved sawbones amputations without anaesthetic. 2) question was casser for the Prime are tend the report, he told Mr Blair, are, but he hadn't actually read it. He ourse he would. And when he had wild a able to prevent him from commenting and It, when he did read the report he were dreadful, 'which minister will take It Blair should want replied the PM. of been read. But he was able to it's endorsement of aspects of the

hey. But you said you hadn't read it?. I haven't read it? Mr. Major shouled ca disgrace " replied Labour, happily, the PM's cattlement became apparent heacest interrupted a high-pitched out the charger of trades unions by all Witted from the" "Want till Witted be FM, his words rising to glass-threatening Tadate's the usue. He is steeped in to; o disserta et " someone should back, familia despute special from the leader to about to that restitues to the terrible greens when from mily meets Howardisa. C. Briggs and Clearthorpest raised the sways arriving at the port of Immingham. y rial and Sterra Leone, many were y's A three. These people, are travelling

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none. Alst high they are illegal over arraiged tool. And something needs

Top-scoring universities to bail out rivals

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

England's best performing universities will be "taxed" next year, in order to bail out then less successful neighbours, higher education funding chiefs revealed yesterday.

The special measure, which is designed to help universities absorb any steep changes in funding will mean that high-flymg institutions, such as Oxford and University College London, will have almost a million pounds each clawed back from their teaching and research

A total of £12m will be diverted to cushion other un-versities, including Exeter and Manchester, which are having to cope with funding cuts in 1997-8 compared with 1996-7. Manchester has suffered because it achieved particularly

well in previous years. The Higher Education Funding Council for England revealed the so-called "moderation" policy yesterday in its amouncement of the distribution of £3.4bn in government funding for the oext academic year among 209 higher education institutions and further education colleges.

versities from the effects of a change in the formula used to calculate their funding, which has resulted in more money being channelled towards those The top-class research, to the detriment of those with a belowaverage performance. However, even after they

have been capped, the highflying universities are unlikely to be disappointed with their Substantial grants.
Oxford, which topped the

research league table, will get over £83m, while UCL will receive only slightly less. Overall, the lump sum which has been allocated by the Government for university funding has been frozen for the next aca demic year. The increase of 2.8

per cent in cash terms is roughly in line with inflation. However, university teaching unions and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals warned that there was still not

enough money to go round. Professor Jack Simmons, the vice-chairman of the Association of University and College Lecturers, said the settlement effectively meant a continuation of last year's cuts, when fund-ing was slashed by 2.3 per cent m cash terms

How	the c	cake is cut	
Winners Per	centage	Losers	Percentage
Cranfield University	10:3	University of Exeter	minus 0.6
University College	•	Aston University	minus 0.5
London	95	Queen Mary and	
University of York	7.7	Westfield College	minus 0.3
University of Oxford	75	Coventry University	minus 0.1
Imperial College Londo	n 74	University of	
Royal Holloway,		East Anglia	minus 0.1
University of London	74	University of Kent	minus 0.1
Goldsmiths	7.3	University of	
University of Bath	. 70	Manchester .	minus 0.1
London School		University of Huit	0
of Economics	6.9	University of Liverpoo	0 i
University of Sheffield	6.7	City University	ncrease 01

The table shows the 10 English universities with the highest percentage increase in net grant in 1997-98 compared with 1996-97 and the 10 with the greatest percentage fell or smallest increase. The list excludes colleges and institutes of higher education, and specialist schools and institutions.

pointed but not surprised by this. This means that university funding will still be 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent down on what it was two years ago. Universities will continue to shed staff."

Professor Gareth Roberts, CVCP chairman, called the overall level of funding "grossly inadequate", although he praised HEFCE's decision to concentrate money

The universities are also having to weather a two-year freeze in the level of tuition fees paid the Government for each studeot via the local education

HEFCE's chief executive, Professor Brian Fender, denied that universities would suffer unduly under the latest funding round, claiming that the intest settlement by the Gov-ernmeot, which was an improvement on the previous year, had allowed the funding council to maintain stability by phasing in change.

The distribution revealed a mixed picture, with no clearly distinguished categories of vinners and losers. Under a new initiative being

introduced for 1997-8, former polytechnics whose research performance is just too low to attract funding will be encouraged to collaborate with other, more successful, universities to bid for a share of a £16m funding pot. Oxford University's vice-

chancellor, Dr Peter North, said that although Oxford welcomed its substantial grant, the need for a cap on highachieving universities indicated that the policy of rewarding excellence in research was not He said: "It points to the

need for better funding overall for higher education." Universities were pinning their hopes on Sir Ron Dearing's inquiry into higher edu-cation, which is due to report in the summer, to win extra moo-

ey for the sector, he said.



Life and death in Dolphin Square

According to an official history of the site, Dolphin Square, a vast block of flats in Pimlico central Loodon, has been home to the "famous, infamous and the ootorious".

To that list can be added the tragic, after the death of the Conservative MP Iain Mills at his flat there and the ingoest verdict this week that he died from acute alcobol poisoning. Outsiders may wonder at

the revelation that the MP's death went unnoticed for two days in a block of 1,200 apartments, with around 3,000 tenants and residents, all within a short taxi ride of the House of Commons.

But for those who live in the 1930s block, the largest of its kind in Europe, the lonely fate of the MP came as no surprise. One tenant told The Independent: "It comes as no shock, you with its dolphin statue fountain Davies and the spy John Vassall.

Michael Streeter on the block of flats that has been home to the famous, infamous and notorious

can lead a very solitary, almost reclusive, life here. The corridors are very private," He added: "1 only see one of my neighbours about once every four mooths." The former Liberal leader Sir

David Steel, a long-time tenant, and one of 50 MPs who take advantage of the Square's proximity to Parliament, is also unshocked. "It's very much a place where you keep yourself to yourself. I can quite understand how it happens that no one noticed he was missing for a couple of days."

The Square, which is run by

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these over your ordinary glasses saving you £££'s on

prescription sunglasses.

in the central gardens, Keep Quiet signs and park benches, it reminds visitors of a slightly ruo-down council park and buildings. Ooe almost expects to hear a brass band striking up on summer afternoons.

Part of its fame comes simply from its ability to attract the famous and influential. Apart from MPs - who include Labour's heritage spokesman Jack Cunningham - there are oumerous Lords, generals and senior civil servants who relish its location. Among the more notorious former guests are

Wear alone, with contacts

or over regular glasses.



lain Mills: MP's death went unnoticed for two days

Charles de Gaulle stayed there during the last war as leader of the Free French, while many entertainers, most of the Crazy Gang, for example, have lived there.

Another attraction for resi- God bless them," he said.

Account the second

100% protection from harmful UV rays

dents has been the relatively low rents, especially for those who have stayed long-term. One resident told The Independent be pays £4,1881 a year for a targe one-bedroom flat, well below the normal market rates for Pimlico, However, he claims the old ethos of giving flats to those who worked in the Westminster area, had important jobs and were desperate for accommodation has been replaced by the a quest for higher income.

"If a new tenant had my flat now it would cost them £9,500 a year. It's all about who pays

But the higgest menace, said one male resident, is the preva-lence of elderly female residents who monopolise the garden benches.

"If you say hello to them, that's h. you'll never get away.

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NEIGHBOURS BUT

to hear he had

IRA shave and daub girl, 16 The attack on the teenager I didn't know where they were was reminiscent of the tarring taking me to, I thought they

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

A 16-year-old Northern Ire-land girl yesterday recounted a terrifying experience, appar-ently at the hands of the IRA, in which up to five men punched her, backed off her hair and poured paint over her.

The incident, in Armagh city, was the latest example of the "punishment attacks" which both republican and loyalist groups carry out.

The attack happened as an

attempted mortar attack on security force patrols in the Falls Road area of Belfast was abort-

ed by the IRA. The alert was raised when a telephone caller w using a recognised IRA codeword warned that a device had been left near Andersonstown

After the device was made safe the RUC's west Belfast commander, Ian Williamson, said: "I am angry that a rela-tively small number of people from Sinn Fein/IRA seem determined to prosecute what can only described as a pathet-

RUC station.

grubby, but lethal little war." Meanwhile, last night the terrorist group claimed responsibility for the murder of the soldier Stephen Restorick. and feathering incidents in the early days of the troubles, when girls and women who associated with soldiers were branded "soldier dolls" by the IRA.

The teenager, Judith Boylan, yesterday spoke of her ordeal m a BBC interview. She said: "It was my first night working in a taxi office. I was sitting there with my sister and two masked men came running in, pulled the counter away, grabbed me by the hair, threw me off the chair and trailed me out by the leg and hair into a taxi they had stolen.

were just going to beat me and leave me somewhere. They covered my nose and mouth and put my head down so I couldn't see. I asked why they were doing it to me: they dido't answer me, they told me to shut up, hit me in the face and head and turned my head away.

"They got me out and one of them bad me by the arms. The other man came back with paint and rope and tied my arms to a pole. One man took scissors out and started cutting my hair, theo started throwing paint "I thought I was going to die. round me."

Families lose haemophilia battle

Gienda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

Four haemophiliac boys yes-terday lost their fight in the High Court to try to force health authorities to fund treatment which is generally considered

most effective by doctors. The judge, Mr Justice Jowitt, rejected claims by the families of the boys that three North West health authorities had unlawfully imposed a blanket

By Geoffrey Holloway

These aficionados so dramatically at it -

twidiling frantic nipples, wiping tongue on tongue these topsy-tury bareback braves
quiting the bedsprings, scalping each other's moans from climax to head-squirmed suffocating climax
where do they live, apan from this?

with surrendered skis, no more plying to impress?

doodling filigree edges, squeezing a sleepy thigh, giving the doverailed miracle its ark?

Born in 1918, Geoffrey Holloway served as a parachustist in

the D-Day landings and later worked as a psychiatric social worker in the Lake District. He has published 11 collections, at Flambard has now issued And Why Not7, his selected po-

is 1972-94 (from which Blue Films comes). It is available from

ambard Press, 4 Mitchell Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon the NE2 3LA, price £7.99.

angling their carrots, their bossy boobs,

Why do they never show the rest of it -

difting the weight to propped elbows,

sorting the duvet so that feet aren't cold,

post-triumphant coasting its quiet level

Never the mindful details that make love -

an expensive blood-clotting agent because of the cost. In what was believed to be the

first case of its kind, the boys were taking action against three health aothorities after they decided that they would no longer be treated with a purer, artificial form of the clotting agent Factor VIII, but a cheaper plasma-derived version which carries a higher risk of viral

DAILY POEM

The judge said he could see "no useful purpose" in granti-ng the families permission to challenge the decisions by ban on funding treatment with South Lancashire, East Lancashire, and Bury and Rochdale health authorities. He said the anthorities were eotitled to adopt certain policies - and the pareots would only have an arguable case if they could show the authorities had failed to consider whether their children had "special oeeds".

representing one of the families, said after the hearing: "We have lost the battle but won the war. The judge refused us leave to proceed to judicial review but made it quite clear that be ac-cepts that families can go along to the health authorities and express individual grounds which would justify having this treat-ment. If they can justify that their case is special then the bealth au-

MPs' motion calls for cloning inquiry

Colin Brown and Charles Arthur

A cross-party group of 40 MPs last night tabled a Commons motion calling for an investigation into cloning to be carried out following international alarm at the discovery of the

technique in Britain. The group, led by Bill Cash, a senior Tory backbench MP, includes former ministers, Labour MPs and Liberal Democrats. The the motion calls for an ad hoc committee of MPs to carry

out the investigation. "A inquiry is needed in the interests of our constituents and the nation as a whole. It is crystal clear that what is being done is being monitored by scientists. They are oot elected and these questions are so important that

ly investigated by lay people with the facts brought out on the table, not kept behind closed doors," Mr Cash said.

The possibility of the cloning of humans topped the agenda at the first meeting yesterday of the Human Genetics Advisory Commission: But the nine members decided only to check that existing UK laws are adequate to prevent it happening here. Cloning of human embryos by

nique used to produce Dolly the sheep - is already expressly forbidden by the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act. Sir Colin Campbell, the commission's chairman, said "There is no doubt that genetics will

continue to be a major issue."

Leading article, page 17

ouclear transfer - the tech-

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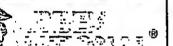
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Medical cuts could stymie defence plan

Defence Correspondent

Government cuts to medical support for the British Armed Forces could frustrate current plans for the military.

Since 1990, the number of medical support employees has fallen from 9,461 to 6,946, and further cuts are planned.

The all-party House of Commons Defence Select Committee said in a report published yesterday that lack of military medies could destroy the rea-soning behind the Front-Line First Defence Costs Study, leaving defence forces paralysed by lack of hack up.

Two weeks ago, the MoD published the first British Defence Doctrine, and last week announced plans to reinforce quick-reaction forces as part of

"expeditionary" strategy.

But the committee report said unless the plans to reduce medical support were reversed, the number of British troops sent to any crisis situation would be limited by the number of medics available to tend the casualties.

The report was uncompro-mising. "We fear that the major reductions in the defence medical services will reduce the ability of the UK to generate military medical support for the front line in the event of serious hostilities short of all-out war," it said. And, in a bitter attack on the Government it goes on: "The committee can see no better example of the Defence Costs Study failing to enhance

front-line capability."
The report adds: "The Defence Medical Services are not sufficient to provide proper sup-

from a "continental" to an port to the front line in all realistic scenarios and show little forces minister, denies. prospect of being able to do so in the future." Therefore, "a choice would have to be made between sending troops without proper medical support or only sending the limited number of

> Bruce George, a Labour member of the committee, said: "This is one of the most devastating reports ever produced by the committee. It highlights the near-destruction of our medical services, all in the name of alleged 'efficiency'." Mr George linked the failure of a division within the Surgeon-General's area in the MoD to provide accurate information about the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf War with the lack of spending and low morale in the Defence

The report noted that "the prime purpose of the Defence Medical Services is to train medical staff for war". Peacetime would not provide enough cases to keep doctors and nurses occupied. However, leading troops who could be supported". military thinkers believe the distinction hetween "wartime"

> on active service, preparing to go or recovering.
> "We conclude that ... the Defence Medical Services are not sufficient to provide proper support to the front line in all realistic planning scenarios and little prospect of heing able to

and "peacetime" is increasing-

ly meaningless in a world where

one third of the British Army is

do so in the future. Defence Committee. Third report, Defence Medical Services. Medical Services, a charge (HMSO), £12.50



Congratulations: A model presenting Sonja Nuttall (left) with flowers yesterday morning after the successful showing of the fashion designer's new collection in an icy loading bay at Selfridges, on Oxford Street, London

Sonja's chilly show gets a warm welcome in new fashion climate

Fashion Editor

When Sonja Nuttall showed her first collection on the London catwalks in 1993, she was hailed as one of a new generation of rising stars.

Martin's graduate from Liverpool had huilt up stockists silver survival hlanket, had givincluding Pellicano, Jones, Harvey Nichols and Liberty. Business appeared to be going well. although as a small designer, she suffered the usual problems of cash flow, manufacturing hitches and unreliable delivery.

After her third collection in March 1995, she decided to take a break from the catwalk, a risky move in an industry that is famously fickle and moves on to the next hig thing as soon as

there is a gap on the rails. But yesterday morning, Nuttall stepped out nince again, and showed her new collection in an icy loading hay at Selfridges on

Oxford Street in London. "I last slept 24 hours ago." she said after the show which was given a warm reception by press and, more importantly, buyers and representatives from Marks &

Spencer. ion of rising stars.

After just two years, the St

After just two years, the St watched the show wrapped in a en a personal donation to support the 32-year-old designer.

Since her last collection, Nuttall has been building a new side to her husiness, hiring out her services as a consultant. The bulk of her time has been spent working with the Irish company Peterson, purveyors of handcrafted tobacco pipes. It is an un-likely combination, but Nuttall developed a line of luxurious travel boxes, ties, gentlemen's smoking jackets and pyjamas. She also kept up deliveries of capsule collections for the Japan-

ese store Iwaya. On top of that, she teaches and to put together her most ac-

two days a week at Central St Martin's. The 20-minute catwalk show

yesterday also served as a show-

might be interested in tapping Nuttall's talents to develop their own products. Increasingly, wise designers are linking up with mass-market retailers, putting an end to the days when the high street merely copied catwalk designs. Now they use designer expertise first-hand. Marks & Spencer already works with Tanya Same from Ghost and the hag designer Orla Kiely on accessories, while Burton has deals with designers including Clements Ribeiro for Dorothy Perkins, Jasper Conran, Philip Treacy, and Lulu Guinness for Debenhams, Paul Frith consults

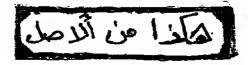
worth up to £60,000.

complished, focused collection to date - a commercial hit.

Those who saw the show were impressed and there was talk of case to prospective clients who a "young Jil Sander" among excited huyers. She may still be a young label, but the clothes classic tailored masculine suits. chalk-stripe coars, luxurious knitwear, and simple jersey dresses - were modern classics: desirable, wearable, flattering and devoid of gimmicks.

Nuttall has a sense of what is commercial and what constitutes strong design. Her long. term plan to develop consultancy work alongside her own label is the way forward for any sensible young British designer.
"My ideal situation would be

to have my own collection as well as two consultancies. She for BhS. A consultancy can be said. Thank God for backers and investors, but it's never Nuttall's own consultancy work has allowed her to employ two full-time members of staff. time, Sonja Nuttall's future



could e plan

Y 1907 - THE INDEPENDENT

Micholas Sommes, the armst topics trainister, denies.

The report moved that the prime purpose of the Defan.
Method Services is to mit mecheal staff for war. Pean unic would not provide canal. W little. O Maria His A S. Harle with air oncated start for war. Peac time would not provide chart cases to keep doctors and mo en occupied. However, action mittagy thinkers believe to distinct on the twent mostly. on option aton of * chall i aleager queque tion petacen analise er sini and pencetime is increased by incumingless in a world where the British Arms of the Br Edexas. the office diliphy one arrive service, preparing of an n name

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Labour tells parents: read to your children

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

Parents should read with their children for 20 minutes each night. Labour said yesterday.

David Blunkett, Labnur's education spokesman, said that a story before bedtime could lead to educational success as well as being a special moment for parents and children.

A Labour government would, he said, include the advice in natinnal guidance on homework for all 7- to 11-year-olds as part And it would encourage par-

ents of children as young as eight ouths to share books and oursery rhymes with them. The proposal for outional

guidance on pareotal reading is put forward in a report from the party's literacy task force, published vesterdav

Labour said that it will accept

that 80 per cent of all 11-year- which produced the report, United States and in Australia olds should reach the expected standard in reading by 2001 and that all should do so after 10 years. Just 400 out of 20,000 primary schools reach the target

work is simply for the parent or someone else from home spending 20 minutes each day read-ing with the child or hearing him or her read," Mr Blunkett said. He quoted the Bookstart project in Birmingham in which health visiturs give a book-pack to mothers at the child's eight-

Very aften the best home-

month hearing test. The pack includes a book, poster, rhyme card, library card and informa-tioo on local libraries. Head teachers' leaders at the conference to launch the report in London were sceptical both

about the literacy targets and the costings laid down in the report. Professor Michael Barber, head of the Literacy Task Force

says the retraining of all primary teachers to teach reading using methods proved to be successful would cost £20m for each of four years and could be redirected from existing budgets.

There would be national recommendations to teachers on how to teach reading.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the report as "inspiratinoal" but added: "We think it's wholly unrealistic to believe that existing hudgets can take the strain. Labour will have to put more money into training."
Mr Hart queried whether the

target of 100 per cent of 11-yearolds reaching the expected lev-el in reading was achievable. "I don't think even 95 per cent is achievable, though 80 per cent by 2001 is tough but achievable." However, the report points tn

literacy programmes io the

which have socceeded with nearly all children. From 1999 there will be on-the-spot checks by inspectors to ensure that the scheme is working properly.

The report foreshadows a much slimmer national curriculum with a new emphasis on the basics including a literacy hour every day in all primary schools. It suggests that teachers should have greater discretion in other subjects when the curriculum is revised in 2000.

Mr Blunkett said: "It is a disgrace that over the last 18 years the Thries have failed to put in place a strategic plan to raise literacy standards.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education. pointed to government initialiteracy. She said: "The work is all being done through Conservative policies which Labour has apposed."

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Sun-lover: The pearl-bordered fritiliary, which breeds in woodland clearings and on rough grassy slopes where are plentiful, is in drastic decline and, without support, could disappear from most regions within 25 years

ICI becomes the butterflies' friend

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The chemicals giant ICI yes-terday became the first corpo-rate sponsor of two highly endangered British butterfly species under an initiative to rescue 116 threatened native plant and animal species.

The scheme was launched last year as a joint effort between the Government and the country's leading wildlife charities. Signing up commercial "champions" who will provide nnney to fund rescue plans for individual species is taking

onger than had been hoped. ICI has chosen to back the large blue butterfly and the pearl-bordered fritillary with £110,000 spread over two years. The money will pay far work in the field by Butterfly Conservation, a charity.

The large blue is a pretty butterfly with a savage life-cycle. Its

caterpillars mimic the grubs of one species of red ant, which is fooled into carrying the butterfly larvae into its nest.

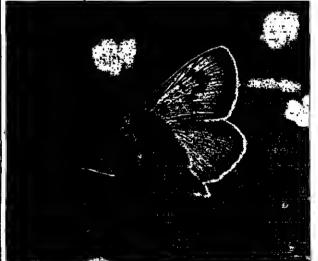
Once inside the cateroillar eats all the soft, small ant grubs. using large Jaws which burst them open. Then, having wiped £6.50, nf which £1 goes to WWF.

out most or all nf the nest's iohabitants, it turns into a chrysalis. The adult butterfly only lives for a few days, during which the females mate and lay their eggs on thyme plants.

Never common in Britain, the large blue declined rapidly during this century and by 1979 had become extinct here. This was because populations of the red ant on which it depends on were also declining, due in changes in farming practices.

But conservationists now know how to manage land in a way which boosts the ant's poppearl-bordered fritillary, it needs plenty of warmth and it finds this on heavily grazed, south-facing slopes. The large blue has now been successfully reintroduced at a few secret locations in the West Country, and the rescue plan aims to build up its population and the number of colonies.

The Independent and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have published an illustrated paperback on Britain's endangered wildlife and the 116 rescue plans. Going, Going, Gone is available from PO Box 550, Markyate, Herts AL3 8QP for



Blood thirsty: The large blue, whose delicate appearance belies its larval stage, has been reintroduced to Britain

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Results of Voting on Conversion Resolutions

The following are the results of the voting oo the Investing Members' Special Resolution and the Borrowing Members' Resolution at the Special General Meeting of the Society held on 24th February 1997 at the Sheffield Arena, as reported by the Scrutineers, KPMG.

Investing Members' Special Resolution to transfer the whole of the business of Halifax Building Society to Halifax plc in accordance with the terms of the Transfer Agreement dated 20th December 1996 (and which took effect on 1st January 1997).

a) 1. Total number of eligible votes cast 2. In favour of the Special Resolution 5,152,776 3. Against the Special Resolution 107,916

4. 97.9% of the eligible votes cast were cast in favour of the Special Resolution b) 1. Total number of investing members entitled

to vote on the Special Resolution 6,955,274 2. 74.1% of all the investing members who were entitled to vote voted for the Special Resolution

Borrowing Members' Resolution to transfer the whole of the business of Halifax Building Society to Halifax plc in accordance with the terms of the Transfer Agreement dated 20th December 1996 (and which took effect on 1st January 1997).

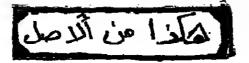
a) 1. Total number of eligible votes cast 2. In favour of the Borrowing Members Resolution Against the Borrowing Members' Resolution

4. 97.2% of the eligible votes cast were cast in favour of the Borrowing Members' Resolution b) I. Total number of borrowing members entitled to

rote on the Borrowing Members: Resolution 2,294,358 2. 66.1% of all the borrowing members who were entitled to vote voted for the Borrowing Members' Resolution

Halifax Building Society has now applied to the Building Societies Commission for confirmation of the transfer of its business to Halifax plc.





Yeltsin criticised over penal conditions

Moscow

As he attempts another comeback after eight months of illness, Boris Yeltsin has made clear he is against any changes to the 1993 Russian constitution, the document which enshrines his spectacular powers of office.

He believes his country is not ready for such momentous moves as it muddles its way of the Russian Federation, painfully and perilously towards says the Helsinki group, at a free-market system and democracy. So why, his critics ask, does he flout it?

Article 22 states that "no one may be subject to torture, violence, or any other harsh or humiliating treatment or punishment." A fine enough principle, hut one which many of the multitude - more than one million people - languishing in Russia's prisons would regard

After a two-month investigation. a presidential human rights commission has produced a report which cites a lilany of appalling malpractices in the penal system, including beatings

Among the victims are the occupants of filthy and overcrowded remand prisons, who can - by a decree passed by Mr Yellsin in 1994 - be held for 30 days without charge. Some of those charged then await trial for up to five years, says the commission, an advisory body.

The claims will add to mounting concern over Russia"s failure to comply with its commitments to the Council of Europe, which it joined exactly a year ago. To mark the anniversary, Human Rights Watch/ Helsinki will today unveil a review of Russia's performance as a new council member which states that Russia "has made little progress in fulfilling its new obligations and ... in some cas-

It cites a long list of violations, including attacks on citizens in Chechnya, executions which continued until last August, and a general failure to address "long-standing abuses, such as appalling and eveo "tortuous" prisoo conditions, and police

"Responsibility for human rights violations lies squarely on the shoulders of the government says the Helsinki group, al-though it expresses "concern" that the Council of Europe has not always used "maximum influence" to secure human rights improvements in Russia, and offered Moscow membership without extracting pledges that it would clean up its act

If its findings on the Russian penal system are a guide, the presidential human rights commission would agree. It says inmates are regularly beaten, tortured, and have confessions forced out of them by guards.

The commission underscored its findings with a statement yesterday saying "neither domestic nor international standards" of holding people under investigation and convicts are complied with. This also called on the Russian lower house of parliament, the Duma, to amnesty pension-age convicts, women with children, and minors.

Russian has by far the highest percentage of detainees in Europe, with 694 people in jail for every 100,000 citizens nearly seven times the rate in Britain (99). By contrast, the Ukraine has 392, Spain 122 and Germany 81.

Whether this groundswell of concern will produce any results is unclear. Russia, angered by Nato expansion, is io no mood to be lectured by the West, over its failure to comply with the Council of Europe commitmeots, whether it be through



In reflective mood: Vuk Draskovic, one of the trolka of Serb opposition leaders, taking a break during their visit to Britain

Serb opposition in talks with Rifkind

Steve Crawshaw

They came, they met the minister, and they went home again. With that, the troika of Serbian opposition leaders could feel more or less satisfied.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, gave little concrete support during the Serbs' two-day trip to the United Kingdom. But the very fact that the British government had invited the three to London represented progress.

Until a few months ago, Britain was still hizarrely insisting that Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, was "a partner for peace" in the Balkans, Now, that has changed. Already, Serbiao opposition leaders have been invited to meet the foreign ministers of Italy, France and Germany in recent weeks. Now, it is Britain's turn. As Mr Rifkind said: "The crucial requirement is that abuses in prisons or elsewhere. Serbia should be able to enjoy the is now stuck.

man rights, and the same liberty as the

rest of Europe is now able to enjoy.

The troika remains a modey crowd—
Vuk Draskovic, with his prophet's beard
and declared support for restoring the monarchy, Zoran Djindjic, now suavely Western despite his past declarations of solidarity with Radovan Karadzic and the Bosnian Serbs; and the diminutive Vesna Pesic, whose opposition to nationalism has remained unswerving. They and their coalition Zajedno (To-

gether) represent the different aspects of the opposition to Mr Milosevic today. As with other broad-based opposition movements elsewhere in Eastern Europe in receot years, differences between the three may prove to be less important, for the moment at least, than a shared understanding of the need to move Serbia out of the authoritarian rut in which it

Mr Djindjie - newly-appointed may-or of Belgrade, following the regime's grudging acceptance of the opposition's electoral victory last November - is confident that Mr Milosevic will be out of office "by the end of the year". In Mr Djindjie's view, the street protests have now taken on a life of their own. "I'm

sure we'll see more demonstrations this

summer - not organised by ourselves." Ms Pesic argued that external pressure, followed by external aid when the democrats are in a stronger position, are crucial. She was critical of the recent cosy relationship hetween leading British players – including former Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who has played an advisory business role - and the Serbian government. "Milosevic can't do lhings in secret with Mr. Hurd or anybody else. - this must be discussed," she said. Mr

interests - and we have to stop that.

Mr Djindjic said: "It's extremely im-portant for us that other governments see Milosevic as an obstacle to democratisation ... We must to convince governments that free media are an essential precondition for the electoral

Many in the opposition fear that the ancial pressure which Mr Milosevic is still able to exert on the city council Belgrade and other cities will mean that the opposition's power will remain something of a mirage, even when election victories have been recognised. But Ms Pesic argued that even the half-victories have been important, in forcing Mr Milosevic on to the defensive.

A meeting was requested with Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary. But be had had "a very had week", and did nor have time. There was a meeting with Milosevic was "working his own business.. Clare. Short, the shadow-overseas development minister, instead.

Gaullists close ranks over detective

John Lichfield Paris

The head of detectives in the Paris police is no longer a detective. The highest French appeal court yesterday suspended Olivier Foll for six months for refusing to obey a judge's request to search the home of the

city's mayor. But the French interior minister - who belongs to the same party as the mayor, and the po-lice chief and President Jacques Chirac - yesterday insisted that Mr Foll would cootinue as head of detectives, even if he was no longer a detective.

The tangled affair marks a further stage in the politically embarrassing investigation of the role of the Mayor of Paris. Jean Tiberi, in the alleged embezzlement of funds from the city's welfare bousing hudget. Mr Tiberi has long been a close associate of President Chirac, who was his predecessor as mayor of Paris.

Last June an investigating magistrate, Eric Halphen, asked the Paris "police judiciare" - the detective branch - to assist him in the search of the mayor's home. Mr Foll, a member of President Chirac's neo-Gaullist RPR party, refused. The magistrate took legal action. A lower court agreed that Mr Foll had "failed in his duties as a police officer". Mr Foll appealed but his case was rejected yesterday by the

appeal court.
The Socialist Party, the association of magistrates and the federation of police unions all called yesterday for Mr Foll's Jean-Louis Debre, also a member of the RPR, said he saw no reason why Mr Foll should not stay in his joh during his sus-

The affair is politically em-barrassing for President Chirac one month after he launched a committee of inquiry into political interference in the justice system. Mr Tiberi was his close associate, and latterly his deputy. at the Paris town hall for many years. The mayor has been linked with the investigation of alleged "false hilling" in the city's bud-

Netanyahu accused over Jerusalem homes pledge

Jerusalem — A promise by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that the huilding of a new Jewish settlement at Har Homa in Jerusalem will be matched by the construction of 3,015 houses for Palestinians in the city was denounced by human rights groups yesterday as highly misleading, if not a

"It is disinformation," said Danny Seidemann, a civil rights lawyer contesting the Har Homa project.

"Four times the government has promised more building permits for Palestinians in Jerusalem as a quid pro quo for the huilding of a settlement. In 1980, some 18,000 permits were pledged, but 17 years

later we have yet to see a sin-In a hid to placate critics of his plan to build 6,500 apart-Jerusalem

ments for Jews at Har Homa be-Bethlehem on land captured by Israel in 1967. Mr Netanyahu said the government had allo-cated \$42m (£25m) for housing for Palestinians in III East Jerusalem neighborhoods over the next three years. Since 1967. Palestinians in the

city have been able to huild only 9,000 apartments, compared to 64,000 built for Jews - 39,000 of which are on expropriated In reality Mr Netanyahu,

wishing to appear even-handed to an international audience. has recycled an existing plan to huild sewers, water pipes and roads in Palestinian areas in Once this is done, Palestini-

ans will be able to apply for the discourage confrontation

CATEGORY

Match 6 (Jackpot)

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Match 5

Human rights groups say PM is guilty of

3,015 building permits to build houses privately. Contrary to the impression left by most of the media," wrote the daily Haarer vesterday. "there has been no decision

ratio of 72 per cent Jews and 28

Palestinians allege that this has been done through re-stricting their access to housing and by gerrymandering the municipal boundaries of the city to exclude Palestinian towns and



Yasser Arafat: Wants to

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disinformation, writes Patrick Cockburn

to directly build residential units for Arabs; but unly to in-

vest in infrastructure." Israeli policy is lo maintain a per cent Palestinians in the 600,000 population of Jeru-

of Nablus yesterday, he said: 6 This is a big breaching to what had been agreed upon. It is against the United Nations resolutions and the American letter of guarantee 9

£3,500,000

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tinians in the city.

decision, probably because he

wants to discourage any con-

frontation as he prepares to go

to Washington to see Presi-

dent Clinton next week.

"This is a big breaching to what had been agreed upon and it is against the United Nations resolutions and also against the American letter of guarantee."

Asked if big protests were planned Salah al-Tamaari, a In the metropolitan area of Jerusalem as a whole, the Palestinian population is about 55 per memher of the Palestinian Council co-ordinating protests cent of the total. Diplomats in Jerusalem say against Har Homa, said: "We they are also concerned that the don't want to consume the en-Israeli Interior Ministry is castergies of our people all at once. Things will accumulate. ing doubts on the validity of the Jerusalem residency permits of Arafat always responds to the

120,000 out of 170,000 Palesmood of the people." He said the settlement would . Yasser Arafat, the Palesrincut off Palestinians in Jerusalem ian leader, reacted cautiously from those outside, and cut the vesterday to the Har Homa West Bank in two.

Abroad, Israel has been criticised throughout the world, hut probably no more strongly than Mr Netanyahu expected.
At the same time there is lit-Visiting the West Bank town

tle doubt that he would have preferred not to have started under pressure from the right, such a high-profile project which focuses international attention on Jerusalem.

In return for Mr Arafat limiting his reaction in rhetoric. Mr Netanyahu is reported to have agreed to a more substantial Israeli redeployment on the West Bank next month under the Hebron agreement than had originally been

planned.
There are signs that Mr Arafai does not want a confrontation. At the village of Hisma, to the north of Jerusalem, where a Palestinian man was shot dead by an Israeli undercover squad on Tuesday, the Palestinian Preventive Security Service on-operated with Israeli forces in imposing a

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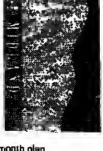
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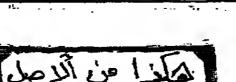
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US sets Mexico and Colombia a tough drugs test

Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

Like nail-biting students awaiting their grades, the govern-ments of Mexico and Colombia are awaiting word from "headmaster" - the United States -

passed the test nr been bad boys. President Bill Clinton is due to announce, by tomorrow, whether or not to "certify" the two nations as cooperating against narcotics production and trafficking. At stake are US aid, loans, future investments. tourism potential and, not least, simple national pride.

this weekend on whether they've

The certification process, un-der which the President is re-Congress on more than 30 drug-producing or transit coun-

ing criticism this year, not only from the targeted countries but within the US itself.

Mexico calls it "interventionist", Colombia bills it "imperialist". A New York Times editorial this week said it should be abolished and that the US should clean up its own backyard by combating drug con-sumption. Even US anti-drugs tsar General Barry McCaffrey has questioned its usefulness.

The general has reason to be confused. His Mexican counterpart, whom he recently praised as exemplary, was jailed last week for his alleged links with a leading drug cartel. US intelligence agents are now exmuch information General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo may have

passed on to the druglords.

Latin American analysts warn that the certification policy is fanning a new anti-Americanism in the region and could lead to strained relations - particularly between neighbours Mexico and the US - and even

to a new anti-American bloc. Such sentiment could complicate Mr Clinton's plans to create a pan-American free trade zone by the year 2005 - a key reason for his upcoming Latin American tour, including Mexico, in April and May. Colombian MPs are prepar-

ing a Bill that would allow reprisals against US interests if the country is "decertified" for the second straight year. The Colombian government bas flooded the US media with a campaign listing its efforts certified Afghanistan, Burma,



against drug trafficking but despite these efforts, cocaine production was said to bave gone up by 30 per cent last year, according to US officials. Last year, Mr Clinton "de-

Nigeria, Iran, Syria and Colombia, where President Ernesto Samper narrowly escaped impeachment on charges he took election campaign funds from the Cali cocaine cartel. This year, for the first time, Mexico

could be added to the list, ests waiver" that would make the move largely symbolic, US reprimanded but with the waiv-

national interests to impose

Jamaica and Belize could also be downgraded this year after an upsurge in the transit of marijuana and cocaine.

In addition to the arrest of its inti-drugs chief, Mexico has een shaken this month by allegations that the governors of two states, as well as former President Carlos Salinas's faher, were linked to drug trafickers. All deny the charges.

Last year's "decertification" of Colombia delayed US aid and made it difficult for the country to attract new loans. This year, Mr Clinton may recommend added sanctions, such as refusing landing rights to Colombian aircraft, rescinding preferential tariffs on Colomnian coffee and suhmitting Colombian citizens to onerous searches at US airports. Colombia, of course, would be likely

Chile gets the cold shoulder in Nafta bid

Rupert Cornwell Washington

Chile's President Eduardo Frei vesterday took his case directy to the US Congress in a new but apparently unsuccessful attempt to break the logjam over his country's bid to become the fourth member of Nafta, the North American Free Trade Agreement that links the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Addressing a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives, Mr Frei urged bis audience to "leave fears and distrust behind," and remove the barriers to free trade throughnut the Americas. But reaction to his 30-minute speech was largely sceptical, leaving little donbt that opposition to expanded free trade in the West-ern hemisphere is, if anything. growing in Washington.

Though the Clinton Administration backs Chile, its admission is being stymied by opposition from both left and right. Led by the labour uninns, critics insist that any enlargement be accompanied by tough environmental and labour rights rules. They also point to studies purporting to prove that Mexico's presence in Nafta has cost the US 600,000 jobs since 1994, the year Mr Clinton first invited Chile to join.

Most Republicans and American businessmen however argue precisely the opposite -- that netiation of environmental and abour safeguards will only slow up the process, allowing other countries to steal a march in one of the most attractive Latin

Hunt for Nazi loot in vaults fizzles out

Initial investigations by Swiss banks have shown Holocaust survivors and their families may gain less than they hoped from a trawl of dormant accounts which Jewish organisations believe contain great wealth.

As the secretive banking community made an unparalleled attempt at openness this week, it emerged that a new round of inquiries has found. only three families affected by the Holocaust with a rightful

Hanspeter Hand, the Swiss banking ombudsman, said more than 800 cases have been exammed in the last year, producing 11 successful claims on accounts which had been untouched for at least 10 years.

But although the most recent investigations by banks found 40m Swiss francs (£17m) remain in more than 770 accounts dating from hefore 1945, only SFr11,000 (£4,700) belonged to the three Holocaust families.

Jewish organisations bave reported many cases where families have been refused ownership of assets, because the Holocaust wiped out records of account numbers, or hecause they have no death certificates for relatives who died in concentration camps.

ed the banks to establish an independent committee of eminent persons", chaired by Dr Paul Volcker, formerly head of America's Federal Reserve.

Searches in 1962 concentrated on names which "sounded" Jewish, according to a rabbi em-ployed by the banks. They discovered SFrom. But only about 5 per cent of banks responded to appeals for information and most of the 7,000 claimants at the time were unsuccessful.

This week, Dr Georg Krayer, president of the Swiss Bankers' Association, used its annual press conference to cmphasise that everything possible was now being done. "If it is no longer possible to establish the identity of the legal owner, hut there is a possibility that he may have been a Shoa victim, the assets will be transferred to an appropriate charitable organisation," he said.

Three international firms of accountants bave heen employed in the search. At least interviewed former employers

Dr Krayer said Swiss banks had failed to appreciate the emotions surrounding the accounts. "Maybe ... 100 francs in the eyes of a booming community was not a hig amount [hut] it was maybe a very big amount for the ones that claimed it."

Privately, some hankers say they are now waiting for the Vol-cker committee to explain what they have consistently argued that Switzerland is not hiding millions of francs. "It is not worth us repeating that, because [soon] we will have the information through Volcker," one senior banker said.

However, one of the world's most secretive banking systems cannot easily shake off the

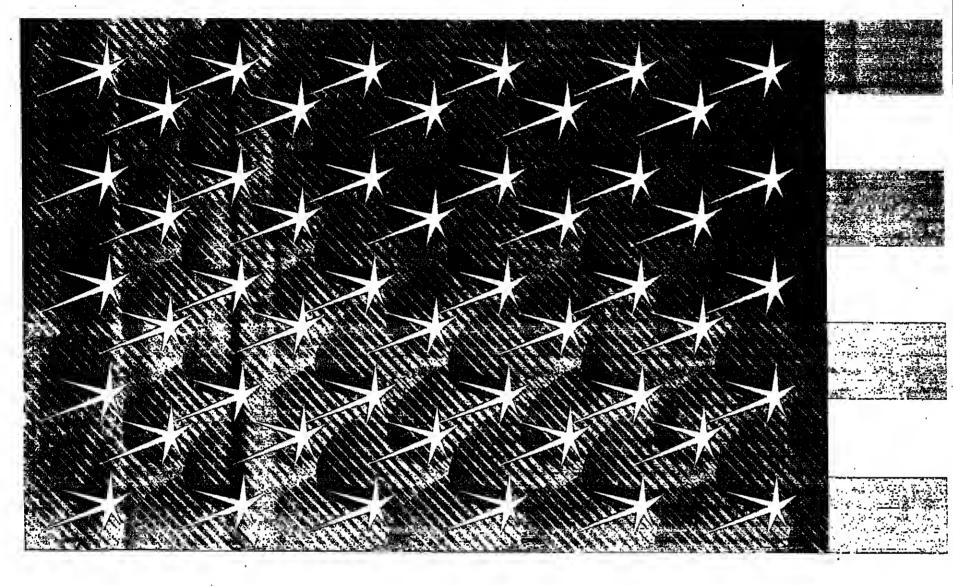
6 A hundred francs was a big amount, perhaps, for the ones that claimed it 9

suspicion that it has been not always honest. The sacking of Christoph Melli, a night watchman who rescued Holocaust-era documents from being shredded by the United Bank of Switzerland (UBS), cast doubt on the

banks' vaunted "transparency". There have been claims that some banks have simply absorbed the smaller funds. And some believe many families will never trace their funds because they were deposited in the names of lawyers or friends.

On the separate matter of the gold which the Reichsbank traded through the Swiss National Bank, Jean-Pierre Roth, vice chairman of SNB's governing board, said it has no German gold in its vaults. It was used during the war to buy raw materials for Switzerland, he said.

The Swiss government and agencies led by the World Jewish Congress this week reached agreement on setting up a foundation for Holocaust victims and their beirs, opened with a SFr100m donation from the country's biggest bank



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Chile's President Eduardolo Versterday look his case do ly to the UN Congress in an but apparently unsucces tempt to break the logismant to brush to brush the country's bid to brush the fourth member of Natas North American Free la Agreement that links the lie ed States, Canada and Men

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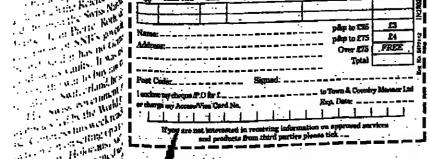
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Chile gets the cold the cold shoulder in of end to Zaire chaos Nafta bid of end to Zaire chaos

Mary Braid Johannesburg

Only a week after almost torpedoing negotiations aimed at ending the war in Zaire, President Nelson Mandela was yesterday at the centre of the stage in talks which have recovered enough to offer the first glimmer of hope for peace in the Great Lakes.

On Wednesday, Mr Man-dela, who caused diplomatic embarrassment by prematurely revealing that the warring ides were poised for their first face-to-face meeting, became the first head of state to make a public appearance with Laureot-Desire Kabila, the leader of the Zairean rebels.

In only five months, Mr Kabila has captured one-eighth of Zaire. His campaign threatens not only to smash his own giant country into pieces but to spill over the borders of Zaire's nine neighbours, resulting in re-

Yesterday it was the turn of Honore Nebanda, nephew, en-voy and chief security adviser to curvinonmental and labouring the ailing Zairean dictator.

meet the South African President and pose with him for the cameras afterwards.

Mr Mandela revealed that the South African government had been in contact with President Mobutu, and that Zaire appreciated that only by nego-tiating with Mr Kabila could peace be achieved.

Despite Zaire's official line that there will be no negotiations until foreign troops have left fits soil. Mr Ngbanda admitted conditions for face toface talks were being discussed. So, those involved in the

talks are scant with details. The discussion have taken quite an advanced form," a chastened Mr Mandela said yesterday. "It is absolutely necessary if this process is going to go forward that there should be confidentiality."

The new South African initiative shows how much has changed since the Rwandanbacked rebellion began. At the start, Mr Kabila was dismissed as a puppet of Rwanda. The rebellion achieved what the UN

war criminals were being fed at international expense.

Up until a few weeks ago Western diplomats were still rubbishing Mr Kabila. But since then his forces have quashed Zaire's counter-offensive. His joint appearance with Mr Mandela seemed to transform him into a political power player.
International credibility

comes in the wake of growing popular support at home. Be-lore war broke out, few Zaire-ans had heard of Mr Kabila. Now he carries the hopes of a population desparate for an end to the Mobetu dictatorship. The country's largest opposition party announced last week it was attempting to join forces

with the rebels.

If Mr Kabila has been reinvented this week, so has Mr Mandela. Since he won South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 the President has shunned the mantle of a continental superpower. This week Mr Mandela is at the centre of

But everything may not be as it seems. The negotiations may

in the background is a team from the US.

As the talks continue, the war Zaire appears to he escalating. The question is whether ei-ther side has more to lose by continuing to fight than by ne gotiating. The government's mercenary-led counter offensive has floundered. In this eastern Zairean city of Kindu, yesterday, the rebels seemed onci; again to be walking all over Mr Mobu-

m's ill-disciplined troops.

The rebels are on a roll. But that does not necessarily make them winners. The telesion between the aims of the rebels and their outside backers may be growing, Rwanda and Uganda may not support Mr Kabila moch longer now they are rid of the hostile forces once given sanctuary by Zaire.

Mr Kabila, and millions of Zaireans, can only hope his recent high-profile acceptance is a sign that the international community is now as interested in the thwarted aspirations of the Zairean people as it is in political stability and the preservation of national boundaries.



Fate hanging in the balance: A Rwandan refugee child being weighed at the UN camp et Tingi Tingi, in eastern Zaire, which is under threat from Laurent Kabila's advancing rebei army

Photograph:AP

significant shorts

Pakistan PM calls for initiative on Kashmir

Pakistan's new Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif proposed talks with his Indian counterpart HD Deve Gowda to settle the dispute over the Kashmir region. Mr Sharif said in a letter that their meeting should be preceded by preparatory talks between the foreign ministry secretaries of the two countries before the end of March. India has

British role in Cyprus urged

The UN is counting on British and US support to start talks between the opposed communities in Cyprus this year. The divided island was the main subject of highlevel talks in London on Wednesday night between Kofi Annan, the new head of the UN and Malcolm Rifkind, the British Foreign Secretary Sir David Hannay, the UK Special Representative for Cyprus and Sir Kleran Prendergast, who is replacing Marrack Goulding as the UN's head of political affairs, were also present.

Vatican to restore facade

The Vatican unveiled a plan to restore the facade of St Peter's Basilica to its original glory in time for the start of the third millennium. Parts of the facade, almost as big as a football field, will be covered by scaffolding during the three-year project to clean the marble and repair damage done by four centuries of decay. The work is due to be completed in September 1999. Reuters -Vatican Reuters -Vatican City

Berisha to stand again

In spite of the growing popular dissatisfaction with President Sali Berisha, leaders of his Democratic Party nominated him as their candidate for a second term. The Democrats control 122 seats in the 140-member parliament - which must reelect him - assuring President

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Can the forgotten king of Australian politics show Blair the route to power?

He has dropped from political sight faster than a sinking meteor. Yet Paul Keating - for whom Sunday will mark the anniversary of the day last year wheo he led the Australian Labor Party to one of its worst electoral defeats – is something of a role model for

For the past 13 of his 28 years in politics Mr Keating was the most dominant figure in Australia, the man who revolutionised the country's economy then, as prime minister, set it on the path towards republicanism.

But, while Mr Keating still has his fan chib, Labor's traditional working-class constituents are not among them. In a sea change which might test the confi-dence of New Labour, they deserted him by the hundreds of thousands at last year's general election, defecting to the conservative Liberal-National coalition led by John Howard. Mr Howard now rules with one of the higgest man-

dates in Australian history. Keating fans are still to be found among the young, educated, middle-class professional set who wax lyrical about his visionary "big picture": a new deal for Aborigines, ditching the Queen as head of state and making Australia an important economic player in the Asia-Pacific region. For thousands of jobless people in the old Labor heart-land, though, that vision meant little.

Yet one of Mr Keating's higgest fans is Mr Blair, who, as he prepares to lead New Labour into the British general election, has been studying closely the Australian model of how an old-fashioned social democratic party can adapt to the realities of a modern market economy, with its demands for small government and economic growth, while maintaining the fundamental tenets of a welfare system.

The two leaders met in 1995 at the resort of Hayman Island off the Queensland coast as guests of Rupert Murdoch, who had invited them to the worldwide management conference of his media company, News Corpo- troducing means tests across a range ration. Mr Blair was a keynote speak-

er. He and Mr Keating spent several hours on the island discussing public policy. "Paul liked Tony Blair," says a former Keating staff member. "He gave Blair some free advice, in a friendly way. I think Blair saw Australian Labor's 13 years in power as an example of what could be achieved by

capturing the middle ground."

From the moment it came to power in 1983 under Bob Hawke - Mr Keating's predecessor as party leader

≤ Blair saw Australian Labor's 13 years in power as an example of what could be achieved by capturing the middle ground 9

 Labor set about holding the middle ground by re-writing the rules of Aus-tralia's protected and inefficient economy. It floated the Australian dollar, deregulated financial markets and tore down tariffs. At the same time, it set about reforming the labour market by cutting the number of unions and in-

troducing direct wage bargaining. All this was designed to encourage Australian business to make more money and export more goods. A key element in the equation was an accord between the Labor government and the unions, in which unions agreed to restrain wage demands in return for lower taxes, lower inflation and, therefore, year's electoral rout. lower public spending.

To help target such speeding at those really in oeed - the old, poor, sick and unemployed - Lahor attacked socalled "middle-class welfare" by inof social security beoefits. And it in-

troduced universal health care through Medicare, a public insurance system.

Io many respects, the reforms were straight out of Margaret Thatcher's copybook. But Ric Simes, Mr Keating's former senior economic adviser, oow-chief economist with Rothschild Aus-tralia, believes they differed from Thatcherism, and from similar hard-line changes introduced by the former New Zealand Labour government, in

one significant respect.

"Thatcher and New Zealand Labour had a model, and pursued it with a religious zeal to the oth degree," he says.
"Australian Labor achieved its changes in a less confrontational way. It kept the labour movement engaged in dia-logue about change. And it increased the real value of social security benefits to those in need."

Mr Keating's dialogue, though, sometimes seemed to be more sym-pathetic towards business leaders, particularly those whom he admired for taking risks by chasing bigger markets beyond Australia. He admired Rupert Murdoch for that reason and, as long as Labor continued to win elections, Mr Murdoch admired Labor. Australians gave Labor an unprecedented five successive election victories between 1983 and 1996.

By then, the magic had begun to fade.

Mr Keating did one deal too many with

Mr Murdoch when he offered him the

Sydney Showgrounds – public land since
colonial times – as the site for a 20th

Control For Elementation Century Fox film studio.

To many, the controversial deal smacked of how Labor, in its pursuit of the "big picture", had lost touch with people in the party's grassroots com-munities, many of whom felt bewil-dered and left behind by the pace of economic change and the insecurities of work in the Nineties. Such a perception cootributed greatly to last

Coming to terms with being an ordinary citizeo has oot been easy for 53-year-old Mr Keating, and the shock still tells on him. Since leaving politics he has given only three interviews, two to Indonesian oewspapers. Yet, when he does speak, he has lost nooe of his friend where it all weot wrong.



flair and passion for hreaking the mould of the old, itward-looking Australia. In a recent speech at the University of New South Wales, where he is a visiting professor in public policy, he called on Australia to stop shilly shall. he called on Australia to stop shilly shal-lying about becoming a republic. "Those who still argue that our continuing links with the British monarchy do not handicap our international efforts, and those who think we should go on wait-ing until every last one of us is in total agreement, simply do not understand the stakes we are playing for," he declared. "An Australian head of state can embody and represent our values and

embody and represent our values and traditions, our experience and contemporary aspirations, our cultural diversity and social complexity in a way that a British monarch, who is also head of state of 15 other member countries of the United Nations, can no longer

adequately hope to do."

Australian Labor seems bewildered about which direction it should take oow. Its new leader, Kim Beazley, a contemporary of Mr Blair's at Oxford, knows his British counterpart better than did Mr Keating.

Over the next few weeks, Mr Blair could do well to ask his old Oxford



Rupert Murdoch (left) who impressed Paul Keating with his global ambitions and lent the Labor Party his support until it was ousted by a Liberal-National coalition led by John Howard (right)

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New tigers burn bright on world economic stage

Andrew Marshall

The 1980s was the decade of East Asia, as the tiger economies of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore shot ahead of their oeighbours. The 1990s may be the decade of South America, according to a report from American Express Bank.

It says that a group of "near tigers? have emerged over the past 10 years, showing eco-nomic success on a par with the first group of developing economies to emerge as eco-nomic powerhouses. Indonesia, the Philippines, the Czech Re-public, Argentina, Chile and Vietnam are all making progress, it says.

Amex has rated each emerging economy with reference to its matroeconomic stability, hnman capital, market orientation. export orientation and developmental orientation. Taking a 10-year period, it says the higgest improvements have been in Argeotina, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, China, the been partners. And Taiwan, Philippines and Vietnam. one of the original tigers, has ac-Philippines and Vietnam. one of the original tigers, has ac-"Latin America has been lag-tually slipped a little in terms of

ging, but has been improving particularly fast," says the re-port. Peru and the Dominican Republic are also becoming at-

tractive propositions. ssment is based on a decade when financial and economic liberalisation, privatisation and the introduction of free-market reform came to, most developing countries and to the former communist states

of Europe. International bankers suddenly discovered an interest in investing in countries as diverse as Dominican Republic, Thailand and Morocco. The so-called "emerging markets" have become an investment sector in themselves

The fact that an internation al bank finds these countries interesting may not necessarily be good oews. Much of the evidence suggests that rapid economic development in East Asia, while reducing poverty sharply, has not always reduced inequality. Equally, growth and democracy have oot always

Ready to pounce

TIGERS: Singapore South Korea Hong Kong Malaysia Thailand China .

NEAR-TIGERS Philippines Czech Republic Argentina Chile Vietnam

TIGER CUBS Poland Colombia Jordan Panama Portugai Slovakia Sri Lanka

Singing all the way home

Freetown (Reuters) --- An African American grandmother arrived in Sierra Leone yesterday on a quest for her roots, guided by a song taken to the Americas by an ancestor captured by slavers more than two centuries ago, and passed down

Rundreds of well-wishers turned out at Longi International Airport, Freetown, to wekcome Mary Moran, 75, from Harris Neck, South Carolina,

Mrs Moran traced her family's origins to the south of the former British colony in West Africa via the song — which is in the local Mende language.

Researchers had played the song in numerous villages with-out anybody recognising it before they stumbled on Bainda Jabati in Senehum Ngola, who learned the song from her grandmother. The two wo are due to sing the song together

economic performance since its heyday in the mid 1980s:

Several eastern European countries have actually slipped backwards over the last decade, Amex says. In particular, Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria are all less appealing investment prospects. However, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary have all improved. In the Middle East, Israel and Jordan are hoth making progress, Amex says. The most depressing news is that Africa is still a slough of despond, eco-

nomically at least. Only Ghana

and Kenya show progress. In general, however, Amex is

optimistic about the developing world, "The current emerging market enthusiasm, characterised by tight lending spreads. the strong performance of Brady and other debt instruments and long-term bond issues by emerging market issuers reflects this positive outlook,

the report says. Tight lending spreads means that developing countries can in-creasingly borrow at more advantageous rates; Brady bonds, named after former US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, were developed to help dehtor countries escape from the circle of deht and poverty.

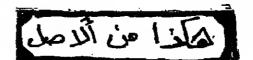
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**THE INDEPENDENT IT IS. ARE YOU?

Professor Colin Smith

Colin Smith was one of Britain's leading authorities on medieval Spanish literature, and the compiler of the best and most widely used Spanish-English/ English-Spanish dictionary, the Collins dictionary. His unusually wide range of interests included archaeology and en-tomology, and led him to joint authorship of The Place-Names

of Roman Britain (1979). Smith was a hig man: his height and large frame immediately conveyed energy and purposefulness. Possessed furthermore of remarkable physical and mental co-ordination. be walked faster, and thought faster, than anybody else. His powers of organisation were fearsome, as was his attention to detail. When a university colleague remarked that Colin Smith was capable of reorgan-ising the Civil Service in a week, another challenged this view, saying that Smith could achieve this on a Friday afternoon. He was a man who redeemed time by the minute and second.

Born in Brighton, he was very much a Sussex man, and never lost that burr, so sweet an the ear. He was born in 1927 into a family that appreciated learning and the arts. His formal education was received at Vara-dean School, Brighton, but his First, life led him northwards,

father's interest in archaeology, and the chances thereby given a young lad to take part in digs, left a more permanent mark. In Chichester, Roman Britain lay just below the surface, and along that coast the contours often shrouded earlier civilisations. He was haunted by a desire to know how things have come to he as they are.

He was lucky too in that the

educational divide between arts and sciences did not apply. Despite his choice of languages as his professional field of study, not only did he retain his interest in biology, but he re-mained for all his life an ardent field entomologist. Indeed, in the first days of retirement he discovered a new moth in his native Sussex, the Southern Chestnut. A sense of the unity of all knowledge perhaps lay behind his love of lexicography, since words are a way of laying fleeting hold on the world entire. He certainly became a polymath, a rare breed in the present age of rigid specialisation. With his sentimental fondness for Renaissance scholars, he might have identified himself with an Aldrele, or a Nebrija.

He went to Cambridge, and took a first class degree in 1950

to Leeds University, where he worked for some 15 years in the Department of Spanish. The period of 1953-68 was one of expansion, a time when British universities were still universities. He belonged to a young department, where people bad time for each other, could learn by argument and exchange of opinion; a time also when teaching was an enjoyment, and you got to know your students. Smith was a good colleague, a fine scholar, warm-hearted, humorous, earthy, irreverent. The respect felt for his qualities was shown in his appointment as Sub-Dean of Arts (1963-66), and his promotion (in 1964) to a

He had arrived there in 1953 as someone working in Golden Age studies, an expert in that most abstruse and challenging nf subjects, the poetry of Luis de Gongora. But his PhD thesis on Góngora'a poetic language led him back to the 15th century, and thereby to an old favourite, philology. The in-ner, and often invisible, logic of any scholar's career now took over: he became a medievalist, with a particular interest in epic theory, and in one of the

senior lectureship



Smith: Indefatigable

edition of the Poema broke decisively with the prevailing Spanish editorial practice, and a stream of articles threw up provocative ideas (some worked, some did not). His anthology Spanish Ballads (1964) was the standard for many years. In 1968 he returned to Cambridge as a university lecturer, and was soon given a fellowship at Cath's. In 1975 he was ap-pointed to the chair of Spanish, a position he occupied until his early retirement in 1990. Also

in 1975, be become professor-

tor of studies. Outside college he was chairman (1973) of the board of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, and served his stint on the General Board, which gave him a wider perspective on university policymaking. But his main interests lay in teaching and research. His involvement in dictio-

nary-making came by accident. The Berlin publishers Langenscheidt wanted a dictionary, and Smith, along with two colleagues, volunteered. Soon his organisational skills and clarity of mind put him in the driving seat. Langenscheidt's Standard Dictionary of Spanish and English appeared in 1966, a second and revised edition in

1988. In a lecture in 1993 Smith reflected bitterly on the lack of proper recognition still being suffered by lexicographers. In-fact, this had not deterred him from accepting the challenge of a more ambitious project, where he was more or less given free rein. With the help of colleagues in Leeds, Cambridge, New York and elsewhere, his Collins Spanish-English English-Spanish Dictionary appeared in 1971, a formidable achievement that provided a blueprint for any future bilingual dictionary.

Its main qualities were its comprehensiveness, its clarity of plan. He knew be was in for fer to be thought of as a fami-

en to prepositional usage, and the naturalness of its renderings. of foreign phrases. Smith was proud too that, taking advantage of a greater liberalism of outlook in both Spain and England, he was able to include many taboo words. However, the coverage of South-American usage was still inadequate, a weakness greatly remedied in the revised edition of 1988, and in even

still appearing on the epic and on ballads, the focus of his main research was moving elsewhere. His knowledge of the evolution of Latin in the Iberian peninsula into various derivative languages or dialects made him aware of a distant parallel. What had British Latin been like, as it developed under the influence of another, and Celtic, substratum? And what of those Latin place names with which he had become familiar during his adolescent explorations into the British past? Such musings gradually developed into an ambitious

interests and reputations to take account of, but above all be was an outsider, with a Romance philologist's way of looking at things, a mere vulgar-Latin in a Celtic craftshop. His co-author A.L.F. Rivet's status as a proper classicist afforded him a little protection. Together they persevered, and indeed were greatly assisted by leading Celtic scholars. The result was their time of his 1993 lecture this indefatigable lexicographer was at least contemplating a future version on CD-Rom.

Whilst articles standing study to be his lasting memorial as a scholar.

He eschewed formalities, but recognition came, nevertheless with his Cambridge LittD (1985), his appointment in 1988 as Commander in the Order of Isabel la Católica, a great hon-our indeed; and in 1996 came an honour of a different kind, for he was made president of the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA), in part a recognition of his contribution as Hispanic editor (1974-81), and General Editor (1976-81) of the Modern Language Review. He would, nevertheless, pre-

arrangement, the attention giv- trouble: the material was ly man, at home with his wife deemed intractable, there were and three daughters; a private man, not given to talking about the breadth of his activities, a man who liked to grow his own vegetables, one who loved opera (his MHRA Presidential address was "On Opera and Lit-. erature"). Even in retirement, however, he had to till new ground - translation this time, and a new love, Galicia and some of its authors. His translations of two novels, by Alvaro Cunqueiro and Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, have been published in the Everyman Library; one of them won him a distinguished literary prize in Galicia. Gareth Alban Davies

Christopher Colin Smith, Hispano-medievalist, lexicogra-Hispano-medicvatist, textcogru-pher born Brighton, Sussex 27 Sep-tember 1927; Assistant Lecturer, Department of Spanish, Leeds University 1953-56, Lecturer 1956-64, Servior Lecturer 1964-68, Sub-Dean of Arts 1963-66; University Lecturer in Socraich Cambridge Lecturer in Spanish, Cambridge University 1968-75, Professor of Spanish 1975-90; Fellow, St Catharine's College, Cambridge 1968-97; Hispanic Editor, Mod-ern Language Review 1974-81, General Editor 1976-81; married 1954 Ruth Barnes (three daughters, and one son deceased); died Cambridge 16 February 1997.

John Leather

great European epics, the Poema de mio Cid. He was not was a "good college man", havafraid of controversy: his 1972 ing been both tutor and direc-

For many years a slight, emaciated figure would be seen dancing and singing at dawn on Primrose Hill, in north-west London. The same figure would sometimes be found later in the day, dressed as a stylish beggar, walking, regardless of safety, in the streets and traffic of Camden Town and Regent's Park, often talking to himself in a voice nf exquisite modulation. This was John Leather, who had become a notable presence in the district since he bought a hnuse in Chalcot Crescent in 1957.

There was more in Leather than eccentricity and madness. He exercised an intense personal influence, mostly for the good, on scores of people of diverse backgrounds and attainments and few who encountered him, even momentarily, will forget him.

He was born at likley in 1916, the eldest of the four sons of Harry Leather, an accountant and businessman, and his wife. born Nancy Adams, Both sides of the family were cultivated and had roots in Ouakerism, Harry was a hard, quick-tempered father who saw his first-born son as a hopeless case, yet did much to help him. Nancy became the inspiration of John's life to the point of idolisation and, though he sorely tried her, her loyalty to him was unfailing.

He was educated at Aysgarth School. Yorkshire, and Bradfield College, Berkshire. It was The stained glass by Burne-

Leather: angel and devil Photograph; Lise Micklewnight

Greek theatre became the scene of early dramatic performances in Greek plays, Henry I and The Gondoliers, John was a sensitive, effeminate child, quite unsuited to public school life. He was brutally bullied but bravely founded a ballet society; he won reading prizes and he discovered Edward Gordon Craig's writings on the theatre. He wanted to paint, dance and

These aspirations were badreceived by his father, who tried to deflect him into theatrical management because it would make more money. In 1938 John entered L'Ecole des at Bradfield that his future life Beaux Arts, Lausanne, where he received its first stimulation. received the first prize in drawing and design and then went on Hammersmith, in 1946. Jones in the dining hall npened to the Bartlett School of Arhis eyes to heauty and the chitecture, London University,

where he took a course in interior decoration. In his spare time he took ballet lessons at the Craske Ryan School while attending evening classes in life drawing and painting under Mark Gertler and Meninsky.

He then took a drama course at Everyman's Thearre. Hampstead, and Sir Lewis Casson gave him the part of Marchbanks (a role in which he excelled) in Shaw's Candida, playing opposite Sybil Thorn-dike at the Old Vic. Casson recognised Leather's abilities, saw that he was dissipating his talents and occded theatrical backbone. He was sent to Elsie Fogerty, the voice expert, and this brought him into the life of the actress Martita Hunt, who took him up and remained a lifelong friend. In 1940 Leather suffered a

nervous breakdown, which led to his being confined. During the Secood World War (in which he was unfit for service) Hunt secured him Shakespearean parts in repertory and found work for him in Martin Browne's Pilgrim Players and Casson's Theatre Curtain Company. He played in Sir John Gielgud's last production of Hamlet and in La Folle de Chaillot, with Huot. But it was Marchbanks that remained his principal character and in the plays of Shaw that he shone. This culminated in a season of produced by Ellen Pollock at the Lyric Theatre,

The Forties were John Leather's theatrical apogee.

Many who saw him thought he was touched with genius - an opinion not necessarily shared by his fellow actors, who found him an idiosyncratic and unpredictable companion.

In 1947, he started his own "Travelling Theatre" of drama, song, music and poetry, a venture that survived for seven years. Travelling in an old military ambulance without a driving licence (for which he was entually imprisoned in Exeter Gaol - a period in which he worked in the library and looked back on as a golden time of contemplation), he and a company of two toured the country looking for fit-ups. Pa-tricia Brent, the BBC radio producer, who played on his first tour of Cornwall with John Maxwell, bas only memories of incompetence and shambles. His programmes were too rarefied for general taste, bouses were seldom good, accommo-

dation hardly ever forbid.

Travelling Theatres took a turn for the better when David Ponsonby, a pupil of Nadia Boulanger, and Hazel Clare joined the company. Patrons were found in Lord Duncannon, Sir Eugen Millington-Drake, Martita Hunt and Esmé Percy. John Minton made exquisite pen drawings for the programmes. The shows - Alive, Alive O. Skepuc Sceptres and Happy and Glorious - included translations from the lighter French and German writers, English Romantic the world. He chose a mendiand humorous playwrights and cant life, delighted in cast-off poets and recitals of early and clothes, free food and accom-. March 1916; died London 13 contemporary keyboard music. modation in his wanderings. He February 1997.

Poems of William Plomer and let parts of his house for steep John Betieman were set to music and performed. They delighted kindred spirits.

In 1954, Harry Leather died and left John an independent income. This brought to an end his professional life in the theatre. He bought a small house and lived for a time on Ibiza, in Spain, long before it became a touristic purgatory. In 1956 be had a second nervous breakdown and was again confined. The following year he moved to Primrose Hill and thereafter led a semi-reclusive life broken by long periods in Spain, Italy and Morocco.

His house was magically appointed with Empire furniture, mercury-spotted mirrors in glided frames, lustres, early Staffordshire and Hispano-Mooresque pottery, faded Oriental rugs, books, musical instruments, white walls and dust. It became his private world to which they were admitted.

Art came to his rescue as much in Neo-Romantic painting and drawing as in the exercise of aesthetic judgement. He was a critic of acute percipience, and had an almost supernatural affinity with art and music. His ideals were summed up in Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Blake. Florence became his spiritual home; Burckhardt and Berenson his mentors. It was in the Seventies that he

. began to move more treely in

rents and could be a wearing landlord. In character he veered between an angel and a devil, inspiring and disrupting in equal measure, yet retaining a palpable quality of innocence. He let his appearance go and was

overjoyed by the result. Ten years ago there came a change. Leather overcame an intense aversion to plastic and had a plate of false teeth made. This transformed his looks and he re-emerged as a beautiful old man, with delicate features, his head crowned by soft silver hair. New vistas opened, he devoted himself to good works, and with them came personal gifts

of ever-increasing sympathy.

He unsuccessfully sought theatrical parts as an actor of the old school, and secured the fleeting interest of Derek Jarman. He had an animating influence on young artists and photographers, some tif whom used him as a subject. He grew calmer in spirit, less aggressive, and the final decade of his life was the happiest and, potentially, the most influential.

In conventional terms John Leather was a failure; but what he was able to give in understanding (bowever forthright), perception, illumination and intuition yielded fruit that would probably have surprised him; but not that much.

Anthony Symondson SJ

John Adams Leather, actor and painter: born Ilkley, Yorkshire 30



Kiyoyuki Higuchi

ence and pastime in Japan, where every dig's smallest discoveries make front page news.

The man today considered to be the patriarch of Japanese archaeology, Kiyoyuki Higuchi, began as an unacknowledged boy genius, whose hobby was research in the rich archaeological area around the ancient capital of Nara, the region where he was born. This city, about 20km south-cast of Kyoto. on the Yamato plateau, was name of Heijokyo. The refine- nior high school, Torii oversaw

Archaeology is a popular sci-ment of its culture still influences Japanese art, architecture and literature.

Grubbing for remnants of this distant civilisation was Higuchi's boyhood passion. He was selfeducated until his discoveries the had explored more than 600 tombs and hurial mnunds) came to the attention of a great archaeologist, Ryuzo Torii, a professor at Kokugakuen University in Tokyo, whose labours in the field had started in much the same way. When Higuchi founded in 710 AD under the was only in his third year at ju-

his research thesis on the cultivation of rice and the Yayoi periods, which lasted from about 300 BC to 300 AD and was characterised by the creation of flooded rice fields, 10day's paddies. Encouraged by Professor Torii, Higuchi decided to devote

his life to archaeolngy. His studies covered a wide territory of Japanese culture, for it was always his belief that archaeology should be associated with the daily lives of ordinary people. So he investigated the onis and development of Japan's industrial history, the charcoal in-

dustry, the history of manners and Japanese women's place in society - the first time so much scholarly attention had been paid to such a subject. These researches became books: Kantojin to Kansaijin ("Kanto People and Kansai People" - traditional rivals) and Jukoco no Nihonjin ("The Pliable Nature of Japanese People"). He also wrote a history of Japan from the earliest times. Among his most popular books was Umeboshi to Nihon to ("Umeboshi and the

Japanese Sword" - the umeboshi,

or salted sour plum, is a common

delicacy in Japanese cuisine), a wry title in every respect for it makes humorous reference to Ruth Benedict's best-selling book The Chrysanthernum and the Sword (1946), a now somewhat disparaged work that the American ethnologist wrote without ever having set foot in Japan. Higuchi's book was also a bestseller and the comical title earned him the affectionate nickname of Professor Umeboshi. After the Second World War.

Higuchi joined the research teams at the Toro ruins at Toro Iseki in Shizuoka Prefecture was that of the materials used

when they began to be excavated in 1947. This Yayoi Period site revealed vestiges of a dozen hats surrounded by wooden stockades, with two granaries set on piles and about 40 rice fields separated by low earthen dykes. In 1965, Higuchi also discovered traces of irrigation schemes here. It was from the experience he gained at this remarkably preserved site that Hignchi was able to build and expand the modern study

of archaeology in Japan. Another important discovery to make the comma or foctusshaped pruamental beads called magakana from sites belonging magatana from sites belonging to the Jomon Period (10,000-300BC). A set of magatama dating from the sixth century forms one of the three Imperial Regalia. Some of his discoveries were instinctive and derived from his wide knowledge of ancient literatures and Japanese legend. For example, certain verses of the sublime anthology of poetry, the Man'yoshu (eighth century AD) suggested to him sites where magatama and other rit-

Higuchi eventually followed his mentor Ryuzo Torii as Professor of Archaeology at Kokogakuen University in 1947 and was awarded many prizes and medals for his pioneering works. This charming, selfeffacing, unpedantic yet rigorously correct scholar was a noble monument to culture, in every sense of that word.

ual objects might be unearthed.

James Kirkup

Kiyoyuki Higuchi, archaeologist born Sakurai, Japan 1907; died Tokyo 21 February 1997.

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

DALRYMPLE: To Willy and Olivia, a boy, Sam How Tantallon, on 21 Feb-mary 1907.

DEATHS

STERNE: Max. immunologist. on 26 February, aged 91. He will be cre-mated and his life celebrated at Southampton Cernatorium on Friday 7 March, at 1pm, 0(81-99) 4443.

Announcements for Gazette AIRTHS, MARAIAGES & DEATHS (Airths, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, in Memoriam: should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Et 4 SDL, tele-phoned to 0171-293 2011 124-bour inswering machine 0171-293 2012) or faved to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Mr Peter Alliss, golfer and broad-caster, 66: Sir Philip Bailhache. Bailiff of Jersey, 51: Sir Peter Bax-endell, former chairman, Hawker Sid-deley, 72: Miss Stephanie Beacham, actress, 48; Mr Robin Cook MP, 51; Mis Con Edwin Forton 83: Mr Tike Maj-Gen Edwin Foxton, 83; Mr Trisian Gard-Jones MP. 56; Mrs Helen Grindrod QC, former Crown Court Recorder, 61; Sir Anthony Havelock Allan, film producer, 93: Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, former chairman, Hobbs, director, Dake of Edinburgh's Award, 60; Professor Maxwell Irvine, Principal and Vice-Chancettor, Birmingham University, W: Mr Jeremy Lancaster, chairm and managing director, Wolseley-Hughes, of, Mr Barry McGuigan, boser, Mr. Mr George Malcolm, musteian, SU; Mr Martin Marriott, former Headmaster, Canford School, 65: Mr Brian Moore, football commentator, 65; Mr Robin Phillips, acfor and director, 55; Mr Peter Stothard, Editor, the Times, 46; Sir John Swire, honorary president John Swire and Sons, 70; Sir Brian Unsubart, former United Nations official, 78: Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Marshal of the Diplo-

Anniversaries

Births: Michel Eyquem de Montargne, essavist, 1533; Rachel (Elizaboth Felixl, actress, 1821; Charles

matic Curps, 61; Sir Michael Young-

Herries, former chairman, Royal

Blondin, light-rope walker, 1824; Linus Carl Pauling, chemist and double Nobel prizewinger, 1901. Deaths: Henry James, riovelist, 1916; Eugene Arnold Dolmetsch, early music enthusiast, 1940. On this day: the last British troops left India, 1948; the first London production of the musical Caharer was presented, 1968; a general election in Britain result-ed in no overall majority, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of the Marryrs of the Plague at Alexandria, St Hilarus, pope, St Lupiciaus, St Os-wald of Worcester, St Proterius and

Lectures National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis,

"Lawe (iv): Poussin. Cephaku and Aurora", lpm. Victoria and Albert Museum: David Huckvale, "The Development of Stringed Instruments", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Jill Lloyd in conversa

tion with William Vaughan, "Lovis Corinth: the early work", 1pm. Synagogue services Details of synagogue services in be

held tomorrow may be notained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.24pm. United Symagogues: 0181-343 3999. Federation of Symagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-589 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 9171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorii): 6171-328 1626.

Juries to be given guidance on awards against police

Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls. Lord Justice Auld, Sir Brian Neill) 19 February 1997

Juries when assessing damages awarded to members of the public for unlawful conduct towards them by the police should in future be given guidance by the judge with a view to establishing some relationship be-tween such awards and those obtained for personal injuries. The Churt of Appeal dis-

missed an appeal by the Met-ropolitan Police Commissioner against an award of £51,500 damages made by Judge Quentin Edwards QC and a jury at Central London County Court on 12 June 1993 to Claudette Thumpson fur false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution. But the court allowed the Commissioner's appeal against another award, of £220,000 damages made by Judge Edwards and a ury at the same court on 28

nument and assault, to the ex- mary loss, should be explained the Crown Court, an award of tent of reducing the award to

David Pannick QC with Fiona Barton in the first case and with Nicholas Ainley in the second (Metropolitan Police Solicitor) for the Commissioner; Ben Emmerson (B.M. Bimberg & Co) for Miss Thompson and, led by Edward Fitzgerald QC (Christian Fisher & Co) for Mr Hsu.

Lord Woolf MR said that in such cases the jury should be told the only remedy they had power to grant a successful plaintiff was damages. Save in exceptional circumstances, so as to keep damages prodamages were to compensate the plaintiff, not to punish the defendant.

At present, compensatory damages were either (a) ordi-shock of arrest. For wrongful nary or basic damages, or (b) aggravated damages, which should only be awarded where there were aggravating fea-tures about the defendant's £2,000 and for prosecution March 1996 to Kenneth Hsu for conduct. (Special damages, in continuing for as long as two wrongful arrest, false impris- respect of some specific pecu- years, the case being taken to sic award was modest. It should

LAW REPORT

28 February 1997

separately.)
Basic damages would depend on the circumstances and degree of harm to the plaintiff. Juries should be given an appropriate bracket as a starting point, to be determined by the

judge after hearing submis-

sions from counsel in the jury's

absence. For wrongful arrest and false imprisonment, the starting point would be about £500 for the first hour of loss of liberty, with additional amounts thereafter but on a reducing scale, portionate with those paid in personal injuries cases and because the plaintiff was entitled to a higher rate for the initial

custody of 24 hours about £3,000 would be appropriate. For malicious prosecution

og saladika ar og samestrann hår spak og har samannån og skammeljen attåller alle gjendigåre og he

£10,000 would be appropriate. Where malicious prosecution resulted in a conviction which was only set aside on appeal, a larger award was justified.

Aggravated damages should be awarded where there were aggravating features about the case which would result in a basic award not sufficiently compensating the plaintiff. Such features included humiliating circumstances at the time of arrest or high-handed, insulting, malicious nr oppressive conduct by those responsible for the plaintiff's arrest, imprisonment

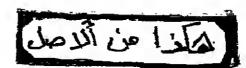
or prosecution. Contrary to present practice, when making an award of other than basic damages, the jury should made a separate award for each category of damages.

Aggravated damages, where appropriate, were unlikely to be less than £1,000, but would ordinarily not be as much as twice the basic damages unless the bajury that the total figure for basic and aggravated damages should not exceed what they

considered fair compensation, Where there was evidence to support a claim for exemplary damages, the jury should be told that all bough it was not normally possible to award damages to punish the defendant, it was possible in exceptional cases where there had been conduct, including oppressive or arbitrary behaviour, by police officers which deserved the exceptional remedy. Such damages were unlikely to be less than £5,000. and might he as much as £25,000, with an absolute maximum of £50,000 for cases directly involving misconduct by officers of at least the rank of

Superintendent. Any improper conduct of which the jury found the plaintiff guilty could reduce or even eliminate any award of aggravated or exemplary damages if it contributed towards the police conduct complained of.

Paul Magrath, Barrister



ly man, at home with his of dinds to Remember unking at Latin III 3 ચંજાલા(h: I વિશ્વા રહીન ther they cen were was then MS of R. praired in 1981, and ath Smith

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Sir: It seems a peculiar feature of the difference between a penguin and a puffin —which any intelligent 10-year-old could tell him in less than 10 minutes - when dozens of prisoners languish in jail on remand for minths, or even years -

Cloning presents an opportunity, not a threat Thy shouldn't we clone could have even more frightening blikely that scientific that scientifi likely that scientists will

soon find a way to produce a healthy baby that is an exact genetic replica of an existing person. After the cloning of Dolly the sheep, there are still problems with inserting into a new animal genes which have been damaged by the passage of time, but they are almost certain to be solved. More to the point, once human cloning is possible, someone, somewhere is going to do it, even if those problems have not been solved. This means a big dislocation in our moral universe.

So we had better decide what we think about it. Our contribution to this debate is simple: we are all for it. We must not try to shackle the human yearning to find things out. The worst response now would be to he guided by our emotional reaction against scientists dahbling in "unnatural" experiments. Our starting position is that the research must go on and if, when human cloning becomes possible, it seems that we would learn more by doing it, we see no objection in principle.

Of course, messing about with genes is frightening. But the alternative is to say, "We don't want to know that", and try to stop the onward rush of curiosity, which

splitting the atom. That bas made the world a more dangerous place, but would it have been right not to do it? At the time, this was not a choice, because the Allies were in a race against the enemies of democracy and, fortunately for us, the right side won. It might bave been better to have split the atom and then chosen not to drop the Bomb, but it could never have been right to tell the scientists to stop.

The choice is not so stark now, but the principle still applies. We could argue that, as it is going to happen anyway, it doesn't matter whether or not human cloning is a good thing. The decision yesterday to allow Diane Blood to be inseminated with her dead husband's sperm in Belgium makes a mockery of the British law on fertility, and the same is likely to happen to the British ban on buman cloning.

We could argue that it would be wrong for the Western scientific élite to abdicate its leadership, even assuming it could be persuaded to. because that leadership would then pass to those who are less accountable to rational democratic debate, less answerable to international controls.



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answer the fundamental question: would it be right to clone a person? Because if there were a good argument against cloning, there would be a good case for international controls of the kind being urged yes-terday by Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, a German Euro-MP. The cause of international regulation is not yet hopeless: no one would describe the controls on world-wide nuclear proliferation as perfect, but catastrophe has so far heen averted.

The possibility of cloning people is in a different category of scientific But neither argument would advance, in that the product would

be a person. This undoubtedly raises several disturbing issues, but these have been clouded by B-movie images of scientists as crazed Dr Frankenstein figures. We need to forget the science-fiction idea of clones as some kind of massproduced robotic slave, and think instead in terms of identical twins. Identical twins are genetically the same as each other, yet grow into distinct and autonomous individuals. It may seem gross to copy a human being, and it is hard to imagine a woman who would want

transplants were quite recently ical controls, including international regarded as a form of grave-robbing. whereas now it would be ethically unsound not to carry out a transplant if it were possible to do so.

It may seem unfair to the individuals concerned that they should discover their artificial origin and then live their lives as scientific experiments. But Louise Brown, the first test-tube haby, has lived with her (admittedly less dramatic) knowledge, and it is one of the characteristics of living things that they tend not to resent being alive.

Some of the critics of cloning have called for research to be directed instead into finding a cure for can-cer or for Aids. This is a piquant misunderstanding, because it is the technology of cloning and genetic manipulation which offers the most promising avenues for doing pre-

cisely these things. That is why, while we applaud the spirit and foresight of our legislators, we do not agree with the han on human cloning in the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, which was supported by the genetic advisory committee vesterday. The response to scientific discoveries should not be hans but more research, more dehate, more involvement by scientists themselves to bear a clone child. But organ in public argument, and more polit-

The case against humanity's ahility to safeguard its destiny is not made by scientific hreakthroughs, but by our collective inability to protect our environment and sustain the ecology of the planet. In the end, clening and genetic manipulation are more likely to provide the solution to this threat than to add to it.

Er, no, you can't meet the mayor

The trio that heads the Serhian opposition is on tour around Europe. For the last lew days, they have been in London. After finally getting Slobodan Milosevic to recognise their victories in local elections. they want help to promote democracy in Serbia. Among others, they have been meeting the elected leaders of Europe's capitals to form city-to-city links. Excellent idea - but just a bit difficult here, because we don't have anyone elected to represent the whole of London. As Zoran Djindzic. the mayor of Belgrade, commented, maybe Britain can learn something from Serbia when it comes to local

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Forgotten victims of legal bias

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's article ("Many hands have been tilting the balance of justice", 25 February) gets it right. This is particularly so in relation to the. excessive entirusiasm of some prosecutors and members of the judiciary to obtain and uphold convictions because it seems to them right to do so for reasons. unconnected with the precise justice of the case before them. Prejudice in the court below with prejudgement in the Court of Appeal are well-known phenomena. What is often not realised is that this is the tip of the iceberg.

The famous cases where justice

has been achieved only through obdurate pressure are cases where massive public enthusiasm or doughty believers. The mere ordinary person who does not create an image for a pressure group or has not the unforgiving hardworking support of enthusiasts remains incarcerated.

It is hoped that the new commission will reverse the trend, but some remain cynical. Unfortunate that it starts business on 1 April MICHAEL BECKMAN QC Lincoln's Inn London WC2

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith has taken no prisoners and none of us can be complacent. But the openness of disclosure of

evidence today does not mean widespread deliberate malpractice hitherto, as if senior practitioners somehow felt compelled to obtain convictions at all costs. That suggests a want of integrity which is not fair, notwithstanding . fundamental criticism after miscarriages of justice. NIGEL PASCOE QC Chairman, Bar Public Affairs Committee

Sir: Mr Whittam Smith has looked in the wrong place for the principal unfairness in English justice. As in many things in life, money talks. He should compare the money behind the police and the prosecution with that paid to the defence. BARRY CUTTER Ryde, Isle of Wight

Sir: I am not against the video recording of suspects in police stations (report, 25 February). It is a step in the right direction and prevents police officers intimidating suspects.

However, it would be wrong for

the Crown to suggest that a suspect's body movements recorded on video are indicative of guilt. A police station is a very frightening place. If a suspect shuffles on his or her chair when an important question is being asked, it has nothing to do with guilt and probably has more to do with the suspect wanting to go to the toiler.
IAMES NICHOL London N4 (The author is solicitor to the three men released from prison in the

the English legal system that a High Court judge (report, 25 February) is prepared to spend 10 days deciding grounding of the mescorted Sea



innocent until proven guilty -because no one can find time to put SHEILA D HAYDEN Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

Tanker lesson was ignored

Sir: I cannot accept the assertion by Viscount Goschen, the Minister for Shipping (letter, 18 February) that the Government's only interest is to ensure that the facts are established and all the lessons tearnt. He was referring to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and its report into the grounding of the Sea Empress in February 1996 and the spillage of 72,000 tons of crude oil.

This particular report is not yet published, but another very relevant report by the MAIB has been. This relates to the grounding of the Norwegian tanker Borga in the entrance to Milford Haven Waterway on 29 October 1995. The Borga was loaded with 112,000 tons of crude oil at the time. Here was a modern, well-maintained tanker, with a pilot on board, in good clear weather, going aground due to minor technical difficulties. Luck was on Milford Haven's

side that morning: the weather remained good and the third salvage attempt was successful. No pollution occurred. Concerned at a possible recurrence of the apparent steering failure during Borga's transit, the Coastguard Agency insisted that the vessel was provided with a escort tug when she sailed for Hamburg after completing discharge. Yet the long-term lesson was missed entirely, as proved by the

Empress some three months later. Fully laden tankers should all be provided with adequately powered tings, which would take up position before these vessels approach any marine oil terminal in the UK. Tug charges would be a minor cost in comparison to the £126m that the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund has ready to

pay for the Sea Empress damage claims, for example. It is a reflection of how much we ignore the lessons provided by tanker accidents that the Sea Empress entered Milford Haven Waterway two bours before low water, unaided. SIMON DABROGAN Stronsay, Orkney

Sir: Recent correspondence on pollution from supertankers neglects developments that are already rendering the supertanker obsolete. New sources of crude closer to consuming countries than the Gulf reduce the ton/mile factor and need for economies of scale in transportation. Crude from the vast upcoming reserves of Central Asia cannot be loaded into VLCCs (Very Large Crude Carriers) in the Black Sea because of Bosphorus restrictions. Finally, "just in time" crude purchase policies adopted recently by refiners obviate the need for huge slugs of crude that tie up capital or incur pointless

interest charges. Global warming looms large in the considerations of potential contractors of new VLCCs. Corrent contracts for replacement of these ageing dinosaurs are

dangerously few. Why not just let them die out? KEVIN SHILLETO

Sir: Greenpeace has rightly pointed out that 90 per cent of known oil reserves must stay in the ground if global warming is to be tackled, and that this is not yet United Kingdom policy. Our achievement on attaining greenhouse gas emission targets was driven by the closing of the coal mines and and market-led "dash for gas". Therefore Mr Gummer's oftquoted statements of concern on the greenhouse effect (leading article, 22 February) have not been turned into meaningful policy.

Offshore, our oil policy is one of

maximum extraction and our sectors are dirty and ili-regulated, while the implementation of the European Habitats Directive is largely stalled where it conflicts with industry. Mr Gummer may spout "green", but in a party where market forces are all, the real question is whether or not he has had any real influence. PETER HACK Friends of the Earth, Bristol

Cola in Cuba

Sir: Susan Stevens (letter, 26-February) asks why it is easy to buy Coca-Cola in Cuba, despite the US trade embargo. The answer is that it is imported from Mexico. The irony is that it must be bought in US dollars. Given that only those Cubans employed in certain sectors, such as tourism, are paid

even part of their salaries in dollars. "easy" means in this context "not theoretically impossible". Dollars are also vital for buying other

Tube needs cash.

Sir: I am surprised at your leading article (26 February) arguing that privatisation may be the way

Underground.
London Underground is not simply a metropolitan version of the old British Rail, weighed down

not a shake-up

orward for London

by outdated practices and

unimaginative management. It already has in place the flexible

work patterns that the newly

privatised rail companies are

the Underground.

introducing. For some years now

its management has been making a cogen case for the expansion of

We must not allow the congested

rush-hour conditions - which is all

many people experience - to blind us to the fact that the Underground

until well past midnight: the trains

provides Londoners with a solid

service from the early morning

are frequent, fast, and usually

The spectacular structural

to time have nothing to do with

management or staff attitudes:

under-investment.

capital's roads.

JOHN STEWART

Chair Alarm UK

London E3

failings that take place from time

they are simply a legacy of years of

The way forward is not to get

bogged down in the disruptive

process of privatisation, but for

the next government to ensure

public and private sources, to

enable it to run a modern metro

which can play an important role

in cutting the congestion on the

that London Underground is able

to get sufficient money, from both

imports, such as soap.
It is no surprise that many Cubans resort to prostitution or the black market, since a job paid in pesos will never allow huxuries such as Coca-Cola. The "dollar apartheid" is another consequence of being the only people in the world oppressed by two governments at once. SEBASTIAN BOYD

Schools hazard

Sir. The Cancer Research Campaign (CRC) is to educate children as young as nine in the facts about cancer (report, 24 February). Of course smoking is a major cause of hing cancer. However, environmental and occupational cancers are not insignificant. Exposure to asbestos dust causes

more than 3,000 cancer deaths per year. Many of our schools are riddled with asbestos. In 1994, Shirley Gibson, 36, became the first teacher to die of the asbestos cancer mesothelioma. Many local authorities have not identified the potential asbestos hazard in their schools, let alone done anything about it. AJPDALTON

National Health and Safety Co-ordinator Transport and General Workers Union London SWI

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Why England is short of water Sir: F Mary Poule (letter, 26

February) marvels that parched Arizona bas abundant water supplies, in contrast to England, "where rainfall is plentiful".

Consider a few facts.
England has no high mountains and glaciers, and therefore no large rivers. Compared with Arizona's mighty Colorado, the Thames above Teddington is a ditch. Eastern England may feel damp, but is rather dry: Cambridge has less annual rainfall than any place in Italy, South-east England has the highest population per hectare of catchment area in the world (not counting Gibraltar, Hong Kong, etc). Much of Arizona has fewer than five persons per square mile.

Most consumers don't pay for water by how much they use, so they have no incentive to 'spending money like water" to describe profligacy.

A few years ago I pioneered a department at Cranfield University to teach these and allied facts. It thrives, but clearly the message still nceds spreading.
Professor GEORGE SOLT Emberton, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Contrary to the impression gained by F Mary Poole, Arizona and the rest of the US South-west make a very bad example of water management. The Colorado is no longer mighty - not only has it been tamed and dammed, with many adverse ecological effects, but it now disappears into the Mexican sands before even reaching the Pacific. The water table has been lowered throughout the region, and Las Vegas is in grave danger of running out of water.

The conspicuous consumption of water in this area, with no thought either for the environment or future generations, is an excellent example for us of how not to do it. ALAÑ PHOWES

Put your money on the asteroid

Sir: "t'm no statistician," writes Charles Wroe (letter, 26 February). Nor, it would seem, a very careful reader of Oliver Morton's excellent and thought-provoking article ("So who cares if the sky is falling"", 25

February).
The reason there bave been a hundred or so National Lottery ackpot-winners is that the draw has taken place once or twice a week for the past couple of years. Alas, usually only one or two

people win each time. In contrast, a smallish asteroid hits the Earth only about once in 500,000 years, but would kill about a quarter of the global population in one go. Taking the long-term average, the odds of this happening to any one of us in our lifetime are indeed greater than those of winning the lottery. Dr DAVID A ROTHERY Department of Earth Sciences The Open University Milton Keynes, Buckinghumshire

Takes the cake

Sir: I read with interest the discussions about whether prisoners' food was giving them enough nutrition ("Mrs Howard denies jail comment", 25 February). Are we coming to the position where prisoners will be sent a file with a cake inside? ROGER BRIMBLE South Croydon, Surrey

They used to be places where you went to buy food, but now they are vast, sparkling commercial centres. And there's much more to come, says Ann Treneman

Date: Two weeks before the gen-eral election in the year 2007. Place: A supermarket, though it is now called a Consumer Community Centre.

Scene: A man wearing a community enhancement monitor looks over the Great British (née Brussels) sprouts. "I hope we can count on your vote?" he says. *Oh ves, I always vote Sainsbury's - always have since you took over managing that other lot," she says and starts testing the sprouts for genetic defects.

his may sound like science fiction hut don't bet your Brussels sprouts on it. Supermarkets are on a roll and no one knows where they are going to end up. Only a few years ago they were merely purveyors - and not very efficient ones at that - of boring old British fond. Gravy granules were about as exciting as it got and the only thing that came free was the grimace at the check-out.

Nowadays one cannot see the gravy for the guacamole and soon it will be smiles all round as you nip down aisle 10 to find an extra-special mort-

Hardly a week passes without some big supermarket news. Today sees the launch of Tesco's 24-hour shopping experiment. Last week Sainshury's Bank made its debut in there on the shelf with own- made by that nice Mr Moon is brand baked beans

And don't forget the "firstever direct baby catalogue



Out with half-day closing, and in with all-night opening: the Bouncing Clock tells punters at Tesco near Gatwick airport that they can shop at any time

Supermarket 2007

• Open 24 hours • Cloned meats • Leisure drugs • All-night alcohol • Doctor's surgery Pharmacy ● Crêche ● Bank ● Gym ● Travel agent ● Vet ● Singles' nights ● Free taxis

and self-scanning trolleys. Everything is "new", "unprecedented", "unique" and offers – of course – "Unheatable

Confused? Join the club - or perhaps you already have. After all you can now get 5 per cent gross interest on some "club card" credit balances. "This means that customers can save as they spend," says one supermarket press release, "and when there is a special occasion to spend a hit more, they can apply for a credit limit and won't have to worry." This is fine if you also believe that pigs can fly - "See Aisle sciected stores, putting savings accounts and credit cards up and that the green cheese

going to be on sale soon. Any time anyone other than

ried. But we won't. For starters, the new supermarket banks are offering rather good deals - for now - and they have an incentive to continue to do so for a little time yet. A Gallup poll shows that almost half of all shoppers carry loyalty cards and supermarkets are hell-bent on increasing that figure.

"But have you seen the prices lately?" asks a friend who has just changed from Sainsbury's to Somerfield in search of a lower shopping hill. But many supermarkets seem to have switched from cutting prices to providing

There's a lesson here and it is much like the one preached by John Travolta's angel in the new film Michael. The story, as he tells it, involves a discussion a close relative offers anxiety- between the sun and wind, and Internet home shopping free credit we should get wor- with the latter hragging about

his great powers. "See that per minute but when we see man down there in that coat?" the wind asks the sun. "Just watch while I make him take it off." And so the wind huffs and puffs and blows and blows. But the man only wraps up tighter. "Let me try," says the sun and starts to beam. In a minute the man takes off his coat, no sweat.

The loyalty card has several solar-powered features. We feel good as the points add up. We feel as if we are "earning" something. We only feel a little embarrassed as we stand in front of an industrial-sized jar of mayonnaise wondering if we should get three far the price of two and "earn" 100 bonus points. It is now one of hattle is on to my personal goals in life to allow real drugs "carn" enough bonus points to pay for an entire week's shopping. My friends say this is sad hut they are just jealous hecause they keep cashing in their reward points to pay for the odd hit of dry-cleaning. My loyalty has been bought, no

Besides offering Unbeatable Value, supermarkets are working hard to liven up what used to be your basic huntergatherer slog around a store.

Shop Till You Drop - the new Channel 4 series on the "anthropology of the aisles" notes that it is normal for shoppers to go into a trance-like state while manneuvring their trolleys. During this time, the

something interesting it immediately goes back to a normal 32 per minute. All of those snazzy arrows, signs and bold packaging are put there with the goal of increasing your hlink rate.

Supermarkets now aim to be fun" and "exciting" - and they will even let you go to the lavatory without having to compete for the Bafta fur best act- . character who seems to have ing performance

in pursuit of a public convenience. There are cafés and newsstands and nonfor sale here, but who needs Prozac when you are surrounded by retail therapy?

Extended

hours have provided what they call new "oppor-tunities" for shopping. "Sunday culating." Good for the calf opening has changed many househalds complete way of life," says consumer psychologist Sue Keane. "The whole family may go shopping and perhaps have lunch. It's a fam-

ily outing. It's an event." That event at Tesco's superstore near Gatwick airport seems to be a carnival. Even the trolleys lined up at the entrance lonk dressed to kill in

schemes. Just outside the door a Budgie the Helicopter children's ride acts as a sort of gyrating welcoming commit-tee. The store stocks 18,000 different products and has 800 car parking spaces. It sells clothing and petrol and has a café that

does takeaway Indian tandoori and Chinese meak. .Just inside the door is a escaped from Enid Blyton's

Faraway Tree.
"This is our 6 The battle Bouncing Clock," is on to sell says store general real drugs dispensing pharmacies. The hattle is on to allow real drugs needs Prozac manager Paul "and some older people, too, Smythe, introducing a hlow-up watchface. You mot have to think back so very when you are know it is human far to realise this constitutes because of the something of a revolution. surrounded arms, legs and voice telling you by retail it is hot in there. therapy? 7 Mr Smythe explains: "He has

to hounce to muscles and for getting the message across: no one can resist going up to him and tak-ing a "Shop Around the Clock"

"We were open 24 hours just before Christmas and it was a huge success," says Mr Smythe. The store took the same in one night as it did dur-ing a normal day and the cus-tomers loved it. "We even had

a couple who came straight from a gala hall to do their shopping in ballgown and hlack tie. Another came in nightgown and pyjamas."

The 24-hour experiment is for one night a week - Fridays - at four stores around England. In addition to the pyjama crowd, Mr Smythe is expecting lots of normal types. There are the shift-workers from Gatwick and also the workaholics who toil away until after 10pm or so anyway.

We also had lots of mums who came without the children either late at night or early in the morning," he says, "and some older people, too, who just wake up real early."

something of a revolution. "When I started with Tesco's some 20 years ago there was a half-day closing on Wednesday and a half-day on Saturday," says Mr Smythe.
"I remember when we

opened all day Saturday, peoe said it would never Then we opened on Wednesdays and then until 8 one night a week and on and on.

Where will it all end? In the short term, the frenetic pace seems set to continue. There will be more 24-hour experiments, more loyalty card deals, more services and take-away tandooris. In the long term, think even higger.

"Ten years from now it will

be possible to go to Sains-bury's, say, and do all your food shopping, do your post office transactions, do your banking, have a meal, go next door to the SavaCentre and huy your household things and come out and fill up with petrol," says Sue Keane.

"Perhaps on the way you might stop to arrange a loan for your holiday and by then you can probably also book that there as well.

Of course, one might need someone to go on holiday with and they could stop by the supermarket dating agency. After all it is not only Armistead Maupin in his Tales of the City who claims that the aisles are the perfect place for cruising. In America, bookshops are holding singles' nights. It cannot he long hefore some supermarkets here do, too.

Not all supermarkets, of course. Some seem to have remembered that they exist to sell food and one of these is Asda. "No we are not going to be a bank. We are trying to be a shop," says Archie Norman, the 42-year-old chairman.

"We see the future as being about food - fresh, pre-prepared and ready-to-eat - and things that go with that, like health care and clothing for all the family. That's our chosen agenda. We see the future about offering better value and offering more excitement rather than getting into very complicated services which are the province of other large industries."

Mr Norman would like to see such things as health clinics in his supermarkets and it is these kinds of services that could stop us from becoming a nation of couch potatoes who order our spuds and every-

thing else via the Internet.
Jill Rawlins of Somerfield predicts that in 10 years it may be normal to order "standard supplies" via the Internet but believes we will continue to shop in person for meals, fresh fruit and vegetables and for social (not to mention bealth)

And what of politics? There does seem to be a connection, though hardly on the same level as the mangetout buyer who was feted by farm workers in Zimbabwe recently as the King of Tesco". But we have had some politics from the Sainsburys - both Tim and David - and Archie Norman is standing as a Tory candidate in Tunbridge Wells.

"Tve been absolutely explicit that our business is not a political business in any sense of the word," says Mr Norman. There are no circumstances in which Asda will be involved with politics."

Sue Keane laughs at the very idea but then thinks aloud: I must say that supermarkets have more influence on the normal side of our lives than politicians have. Maybe the day will come when the market researchers will come round and knock on your door and say: 'Are you voting Sainsbury or Asda?' I can see no reason why they wouldn't. Gosh. I think they'd get a lot of votes."

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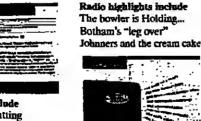


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Pig's ears give me something to chew on

vegetarians, you are supposed to find out what kind of vegetarian they are - whether they are vegans, whether they eat fish occasionally, if they abhor cheese and milk, and so on. When vegetarians come to supper, you are supposed to cater for their particular tastes, which you have established in advance.

But if you are a carnivore (as I am) you soon realise that vegetarians do not generally cater for your strange tastes when you go to eat at their place, and nor do they ever bother to establish what kind of a carnivore you are. They probably do not even realise that there are different grades of carnivore as there are different ranks of vegetarian. Oh, hut there are, there are. It is very unusual to meet a carnivore who will cat everything that an animal can provide. For instance, I know carnivores who will tuck into steak tartare but who will not eat offal such as liver and kidney. I like liver and kidney but I draw the line somewhere between steak tartare and sushi. Precisely

where I draw this line am not sure, or at least I was not sure until yesterday when I found myself in a queue in a butcher's shop behind a woman who was buying pig's ears. Nothing else. Just a pair of pig's ears. I then knew that I had met someone who was prepared to go further down the line than I was. Most internal offal I can bandle. External offal has me looking the other way. Pig's trotters, duck's feet, Bath chaps - no thanks.

The trouble is that these delicacies are often thought to be exotic specialities of a kind that should appeal to the adventurous and welltravelled, and nobody likes to be thought unadventurous and badly travelled. Usually they are extremely ethnic in origin, being part of something like Chinese regional cooking or hlack American soul food. But surely the reason that peasant cooking offers such well-cooked extremities is that peasants often have nothing else to eat and have to make do with interesting ways of cooking these animal scraps. People, I hope, only eat pig's trotters because



Miles Kington

pork chops are unavailable or beyond their pocket. I would hate to think that people actually prefer pig's trotters to pork chops, or would plump for andouillettes when they can get properly

made sausages. Which is why I was rather perturbed to see a young woman buying a pair of pig's ears yesterday, in Mr Bartlett's shop in Green Street, Bath. You can get anything you like there, from rabbit and pigeon to haggis and wild boar, as well as the more normal things, so it is a little worrying to

see people opt for pig's ears.

I have been adventurous in my own day, let me stress. I have eaten alligator in Louisiana, and delicious it was. I have eaten roast guinea pig in Peru, and very interesting it was. I have even eaten deep-fried haggis in Edinburgh and you don't get much more high-risk than when you adopt the dangerous Scottish way of eating. I once ate sea slug in a Chinese restaurant in

Richmond, which I shall never do again, as I cannot imagine anything worse than

unless it is tripe. Despite the advocacy of Bill Tidy's "Fosdyke Saga", I have never seen the least attraction in tripe, which has all the visual appeal of left-over floorcloths. The only time I ever dared to eat it was when I was staying in Normandy

years ago, and reckoned that if the French couldn't cook it properly nobody could, and now was the time to take my courage in both hands. So I opted for "Tripes à la mode de Caen" as dish of the day. I did not enjoy it. Never again.

"Can I freeze these?" the young woman buying the

pig's ears asked the butcher. It was even worse than I thought. She wanted to keep them for a special occasion. How special could a special occasion get, that she was going to bring pig's ears out of the freezer? And what would she do with them once she had got them out? How did you cook and eat pig's

"Excuse me," I said hravely, "but I have never seen anyone huying pig's ears before. What are you going to do to them?" Her startled lonk melted

into slight embarrassment. "Well," she said, "I'm going to photograph them."
I couldn't let her stop

"May I ask why you are going to photograph them?"
"I have been asked to do a book cover design, for a new edition of Orwell's Animal Farm, and I wanted to try something a bit different. So I thought, why not pig's

ears... "So you're not going to eat

"Eat them? What a horrible idea!" Maybe she was a

We know you're one of us, Tony. But who are we?

great gull has whispered in Mr Blair'a ear and told him to get personal. Stop all the political malarkey and tell the punters what they really want to hear. So today in The Sun you can read "When Tony met Cherie - The Blair Love Story.

Being New Labour means presumably never baving to say you're sorry. Ever since Sue Lawley went for his weak spot on Desert Island Discs, Blair has been making a concerted effort to show a more human side. It doesn't stop the punters being suspicious that one day he will reveal the reptile inside him like something out of Dark Skies. In "opening his heart" to The

Sun, Blair comes across as a man hoth sustained by and deeply involved with his family. He is concerned about the effects of his work on his children and wife. If the ultimate sacrifice had to be made, he says, be would choose his fam-

ily over politics.
All this is fine, until this extraordinary man tries to play the ordinary hloke and spouts on about chippies and pints down the Labour club and watching Gladiators and Noel's House Party and eating fish suppers in front of the telly. I am sure be does some of these things, I am sure he's a good bloke really, I am sure he's one

of us. By the way, who are we?
I only ask because by ticking off what he imagines the signifiers of working-class authenticity in The Sun, are we supposed to forget Fettes and Granita and the Oratory and Cherie's salary or are we supposed to assume that Britain is a genuinely classless place and Blair's sudden attempt at down-ward mobility is a graphic illus-tration that class is but another item in the ragbag of identities for politicians to play with.

If so, class has moved from being something firmly attached to material circumstances to something purely cultural. No wonder the Marxists get so vulgar. The proletariat now defines itself not by what it does but what it likes. Class is defined not by what work you do but what you do when you are not working by one's leisure activities. It seems strange that Blair should choose to play this game, as it is quite clear to anyone with half a hrain that there is no way he could he defined as working class. Indeed if class, in the old sense of the word, is needed, then John Prescott is wheeled in. Whereas Ginger Rogers gave Fred Astaire sex, Astaire gave her class. The exchange between Blair and Prescott is, I take it, a classier one altogether.

Yet if Blair is a working-class wannabe then he is not alone. Popular culture is loaded with all sorts of men, who drag up in working-class garb, who claim authenticity by reference to their trivial pursuits. In the space of a few years football has been made both more respectable, dare I say bourgeois, as well as remaining the ultimate symbol of a collective and common culture. Rid of its hooligans, it is now a sport with which the whole family can become involved. Likewise if you are Oasis or Chris Evans or any old footballer then a working-class yob is something to be - truly heroic. Until, that is, something like Gazza happens and then a great deal of denial about what working-class masculinity may entail takes place. The Sun itself had to tread this fine line by describing wife-beating not as low class hut as low life.

New Labour is about a concerted effort to appeal to the middle classes. The paradox, of course, is that it has occurred at a time when that class feels itself beleaguered and endan-



Suzanne Moore

Labour's leader is a working class wannabe who says he

likes fish and chips and 'Gladiators' on the TV.

Voters may not be so easily impressed

> the attributes of other classes appears a desperate sham. Those secure in their positions do not have to pretend to be one

gered. Downsizing and deregu-lation has meant that the uncer-

tainties of redundancy and

short-term contracts which

belonged to traditional working-

class life are now fell by the pro-

tessional classes. The workers

who have experienced their

rights dwindling away have been middle class. What they took for

granted, from pensions to health

care to decent schools to jobs for

life, has been swept away. And they have been the most vocal

about something which has actu-ally affected all classes. The result is a society in which

in some areas class is demarcated

more than ever before, while in

others its existence is completely denied. This contradiction is not

denied. It his contradiction is not new, but it is being played out in a different way than hefore. Thatcher appealed to the aspi-rational voter. Upward mobility could be guaranteed by property owning, the purchase of another

microwave, enough money to eat out occasionally. It was the

ultimate from of privatisation.

Society, a questionable concept, may not get better but the indi-vidual could improve their lives

immeasurably.

New Labour, despite its hard-headed realism, also offers an aspirational fantasy, but it is one is in which the shared, public bonds hetween individuals also get upgraded. The world will be a safer cleaner, binder place.

a safer, cleaner, kinder place. The language of class solidarity is dead for them because it

implicitly means class conflict.

No one must be alienated. Sadly,

the person who best embodies

classlessness is still John Major.

class is free-floating. In its most

positive manifestation it has man-aged to detach itself from the

old, constraining, definitions, which simply did not describe life

as it was lived. The negative

aspect of this - the grabbing of

This post-modern version of

Blair, meanwhile, has to be so many things to so many people, one begins to wonder if he has cloned himself, or whether one person can really rush betweeo Granita and the Labour cluh, gala dinners and the footie, all the while demanding balsamic vinegar on his scraps. His tastes may be genuinely down-market, and we have no reason to believe that they are not, but his lifestyle isn't. Why pretend otherwise?

Voters surely vote for politicians whom they realise are not the same as them. The fetish of ordinariness, which always means hlokishess, is a peculiar phenomenon. Superwoman Cherie is reduced to subservient wife, his children to little symbols of normality.

Politics has learnt too much from advertising. It now little more than a form of niche marketing. Gaps are spotted, focus groups observed through two-way mirrors, and politi-cians' personalities, dress and opinions are manufactured to fill the gaps.
When Clare Short with her image undone

finds more favour than any number of other female MPs, no one apart from the image makers themselves are surprised. You see in the midst of all this is a desire for something decent, honest and true, attributes which are not the prerogative of any one social class. The day Blair stands up and says it loud "I'm middle class and I'm proud" is the day we might begin to trust him. He's been looking through two-way mirrors for too long. A vision of middle-class heroism is nothing to he ashamed of. A working-class hero may still be something to be. But only if you have no other choice and only when Saturday comes.

Why we are too wet about water

by Nicholas Schoon

omething momentous is happening to our water, something that will transform the way societies

economies work around the globe in the next century. We are starting to run short of the stuff in some parts of these wet and windy islands, mainly because we demand more and more of it. The usual response to looming water shortages would be to dig a few more reservoirs, sink a few more boreholes and

expand the supply.

But a powerful consensus has recently emerged that this is completely the wrong answer Instead, rising demand should be constrained. We will come to the whys and hows, the rights and wrongs, of that constraint in a moment. But first, its sig-

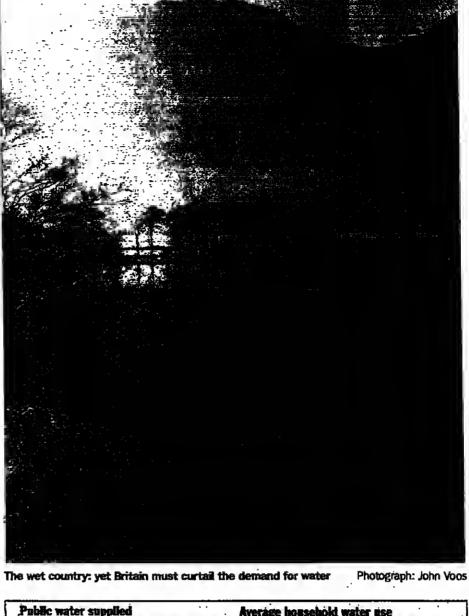
When a commodity goes into short supply the price goes up. That encourages suppliers to find new sources or to develop alternatives. Since civilisation began, humanity has been able. by and large, to expand supplies of most things in line with increasing population and ris-ing affluence. Of course there have always been local shortages for one reason or another. and a few more esoteric commodities, such as whale products, have virtually disappeared because of over-exploitation.

But generally we have been able to win more and more supplies through a combination of technological advances, improved efficiency, discover-ing alternatives and looking further afield. Becoming richer has been all about consuming more stuff, stuff as diverse as space, water, energy, clothing, travel and electronics.

Of course this cannot go on for ever. The interesting thing about being alive in the century after 2000 is that this will be the age when supply limits will will probably stabilise at a little less than twice its present level of 5.8 hillion, hut economies will keep on growing. Because of the weight of human oumbers and their aspirations for higher standards of living, all sorts of industries that rely on extracting both renewable and finite natural resources - fossil fuels, water, timber, fish - will

start hitting global limits. That could lead to escalating shortages and prices. Businesses, governments and edu-cated consumers will want to avoid the inevitable chaos and unhappiness, hut they will also want to avoid the corruption and inefficiencies that would spring up if the state moved in and started rationing. Demand constraint, or demand manment as it is more congenially entitled, will be one of their most important solutions to these looming supply crises. England's water shortages

are showing us the way to a future in which the link between rising standards of Earth which pointed out that living and rising consumption



change attitudes and encourage

Many customers will think all

this is crazy. Britain is plainly a

rainy country, and if some parts

such as the South-East and

East Anglia are suffering short-ages then build new reservoirs,

tinue to want more water

Average household water use Taking a bath Drividing 10 Rres/day

of materials is finally broken. rainwater that falls on Britain for demand management emerged last week, when the 27 smaller water companies of England and Wales announced that they wanted several hig new reservoirs to be huilt, and they were swiftly slapped down by the two government water regulators, the Environment Agency and Ofwat. Both argued that the companies' efforts and investments should go into cutting waste - by them-selves and their customers - in order to stop the steadily growing demand for water. Talk of

spending large sums securing new supplies was premature.
The regulators were backed up by environmental organisations, including Friends of the are now numerous, well documented examples of rivers, wetlands and lakes that have been damaged by water companies and farmers taking too much.

Yesterday the Government's Round Table on Sustainable Development, which advises ministers on long-term issues affecting the environment, economy and society, added its voice to the chorus calling for demand management. Water companies, large and

small, disagree. They call for a twin-track approach - demand management and investment in expanding supplies. They argue that climate change means it could well become drier and the time has come to plan for using more and more of the that bowever hard they try to sink new boreholes, or pipe the stuff down from the wetter west and north of the country, they say. But do they wish to see their water hills rise, still further, to pay for all the investment this will entail? What if it works out much cheaper to use water more wisely instead?

According to the regulators, it makes much better economic sense to cut the huge quantities that industry and its customers waste than to expand supplies. Of course, people also use other commodities such as fossil fuels in an extraordinarily wasteful way while their demands keep on rising. Only with water are the regulators starting to press home attempts

The companies are, quite rightly, being forced to cut leakage from their pipes. But, as examples of hest practice from the most enlightened companies shows, there is also enormous scope for them to help their customers use less without having to share baths, drop hygiene standards and generally live more miserable

they can include vouchers that entitle customers to discounts on water-saving devices - such as gravity-fed showers, water hutts, and end-of-hose attachments that allow you to turn the flow on and off there instead of having walk back to the tap. The companies all ought to offer their customers free leak detection. And it really isn't too much to expect people to turn off the tap while they brush their teeth.

But there is one really painful nettle which has to be grasped - the much loatbed water meter. Having your consumption of water measured does, as trials have repeatedly shown, encourage people to use it more carefully. It makes no sense to meter every home in the land; for one thing it is difficult to provide water meters in flats. But it is fair and reasonable to insist that households that use a lot of water (and can afford to pay), such as those with gardens and outside taps or swimming pools, have meters, fitted free. The consensus on the need

for demand management is far from solid; the next governmen! and the public have to commodities - energy, timber. perhaps even travel - and find export markets for our techniques. A future beckons in which small really is beautiful and less means more.

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MOTOR INSURANCE

Hedy Lamarr's deadly weapons

More than just a Hollywood icon, she was a pioneer of military technology, says Edward Helmore

n an extraordinary marriage of beauty and brains it turns Lout that Hedy Lamarr, to many one of Hollywood's most glamorous actresses, was an accomplished inventor who developed an early guidance system for torpedoes that was later developed to become the basis for some of the world's most secret communication

In the odd tradition of celebrity patents - one that includes Harry Houdini's diving suit. Lillian Russell's trunkcum-dresser, Zeppo Marx's cardiae wristwatch and "Mark Twain's Patent Scrapbook" - the little-known and improbable worlds of showbiz and technoladvanced weaponry was recently unearthed by Hans-Joachim Braun, a history professor at Universitat der Bundeswehr in Hamhurg.

As a teenage actress in prewar Berlin. Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, who would later he given the name Hedy Lamarr by a film-score composer, had

the Hollywood film mogul Louis B Mayer at MGM, showed the world ber acting skills and much of herself in the 1933 Czech film Extase (Ecstasy). Her performance attracted Fritz Mandl, a powerful Austrian arms dealer, who won her hand and presented her as a hostess of Viennese society, entertaining such figures as Hitler and Mussolmi.

In 1937 the two divorced, Mandl becoming an adviser to Juan Peron in Argentina, while Madame Mandi moved to Hollywood where she became Hedy Lamarr and starred opposite Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy in such films as Samson and tale of how Lamarr bridged the Delilah and Comrade X. There she met the second of her six ogy to become a pioneer of husbands, the avant-garde composer George Antheil, hest known for his Futurist composition Ballet Mechanique, which required 16 synchronised player-pianos and caused a sensation when it was first per-

formed in Paris in 1926. Antheil, who was working as



columns to the lovelorn in Esquire and published a book, Every Man His Own Detective: A Study of Glandular Endocrinology. In the summer of 1940, the 26-year-old film beauty met Antheil at a dinner party and apparently approached him to inquire how she could enlarge her hreasts. The subject soon turned to weaponry when she revealed she was considering leaving Hollywood to work for the National Invention Council in Washington DC.

Lamarr had the idea that a torpedo's radio guidance signal could not be jammed if the signal was hopped across at seemiogly random frequencies at split-second intervals. Would-be eavesdroppers would hear only unintelligible blips, and attempts to jam the signal would succeed only at knocking out a few small hits of it. Antheil's contribution was that the frequencies could be switched in much the same way as he co-ordinated the player

pianos in his ballet using slotbased upon the 88 keys on the piano, the couple submitted their "Secret Communications System" to the Invention Council and were granted a patent two years later. But the clasb of cultures proved too much for the Navy, which shunned the idea, put off partly by the idea of having piano rolls in their torpedoes, as well as the problems of radio waves penetrating

The Lamarr-Antheil patent expired in 1959, just three years before frequency-hopping was first used on ships during the Cuban blockade. Since then it has become the basis of modern anti-jamming applications, for example, the \$25bn US Milstar defence communications satel-

In her Hollywood days, Hedy Lamarr was often quoted as saying. 'Any girl can be glamorous. All she has to do is stand still and look stupid." Glamorous she was, but stupid she wasn't.

business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Centrica wants selective price cuts to beat off rivals

Business Correspondent

Centrica, the former British Gas supply business, held talks with the industry regulator earlier this week in its drive to gain approval to make the first selective price cuts to consumers for decades, it emerged yesterday.

Roy Gardner, Centrica's chief executive, is understood to have submitted a detailed pack-

age of discounts to Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, affecting some of the 500,000 homes taking part in the first trial of the first trial of the spottiswoode was sympathetic, but declined to reveal the levels of discounts. He said: "We're discussing this with domestic competition in the South-west of England. Since the trials began in May 1996 British Gas has lost 18 per cent of its customers to rival suppliers, who are offering to knock as much as 20 per cent off bills. Ofgas, Ms Spottiswoode's department, will only allow

almost 20 per cent of South-west customers no longer using Centrica, that point has been reached. However rival suppliers including Calortex, the market leader in the first trial area, have already pledged to oppose any cuts.

Mr Gardner said he believed

"We're discussing this with Ofgas. f don't think you will have to wait long before you see some announcements from us."

Centrica indicated that numbers switching to new suppliers in the second phase of the trials, involving a further 500,000 homes in Avon and Dorset, had been smaller than expected.

Just 3 per cent of households combined distribution and suphave so far moved, though Mr Gardner said more switches were in the pipeline. Another million homes will be able to choose their supplier in Kent and Sussex next month.

British Gas, now renamed BG Plc, yesterday revealed a dramatic, though expected, plunge into the red after making further restructuring provisions in its last results as a

ply corporation. The two halves of British Gas demerged earlier this month. Current cost losses last year after tax totalled £571m, compared with profits of £130m in 1995.

The long list of provisions which hit the figures totalled £1.14bn, of which £822m went to Centrica and £424m went to pay for extra voluntary redundancies across the group. Al-

The headline provisions included £635m Centrica was forced to spend on its "take-or-pay" problem, where it has to buy gas at inflated prices. Renegotiating contracts with BP and Mobil cost £341m. BG also spent £70m on the demerger. A further £100m went on sorting out customer services probtems at Centrica.

Richard Giordano, BG's chairman, defended the provisions. He explained: "Nobody likes to lose money but these provisions had to be done. The only way to get the company in a state to go forward was to clear the decks as much

as possible." Shares in BG gained 2p to 175.5p, while Centrica's shares closed unchanged at 68p.

British share of new investment in EU 'declining'

Economics Editor

Business leaders' fears that the tide of anti-European feeling in the Conservative Party will harm inward investment prospects are backed by a report published today which shows that the British share of new overseas inrestment in the EU is in decline.

The figures from the UN's Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) add weight to fears that Adair Turner. director general of the CBL, will express in a St David's Day

speech in Cardiff today. Mr Turner will say that even if the UK does not join the single currency, it is essential for the sake of business for the Government to strike a positive tone.

He will also criticise the Goveroment's "triumphalism" about the difficulties some continental economies are currently facing. "Before we fall for the myth of Europe's economic disaster, we should remember that its income per head has grown faster than that of the US in the past five, 10 and 20 years, and that continental Europe's export performance remains strong. The European economy is not a disaster.

He adds: "Our national interest lies in full and constructive membership of the European Union, arguing from within for the changes needed to make it more successful. We cannot afford to let Europhobia rule." The fear that British isolation

ing investment flows was ked by economists yesterday. Nigel Pain, an expert on the subject at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. said: "The primary factor in inward investment has always been to locate in the EU. To the extent that there is any uncertainty about Britain's commit-

ment, that will discourage potential investors." Ruth Lea, head of policy at the traditionally Eurosceptic Institute of Directors agreed, "Our membership of the EU is valuable on balance, and one reason is inward investment. There is no doubt that free access to the Single Market is a

major factor," she said. Mr Pain added that concerns about Britain staying outside the single currency, and having a volatile exchange rate against the euro, could potentially offset any advantages investors saw in the low level of costs in the UK.

The Unctad figures show that the UK share of new investment by Japanese compa-nies has fallen from 44 per cent in the late 1980s to 39 per cent in the first half of the 1990s, although Britain still has by far the highest amount of existing Japanese investment.

for investment from Hong Kong and Taiwan. Malaysian investment is concentrated in new flow till be crucial. But it France, and China's in France and Germany. The smaller will emerge as a significant Asian economies invest far competitor to the EU.

from Europe could be damag- more in Japan and the US, but are increasing their investment in the EU rapidly.

> that deregulation and low taxation are amongst the key factors attracting inward investment to Britain. But the UN report, commissioned by the Thai government, shows that the British share of total investment from overseas has shrunk from near-\$22bn (£13.5bn) out of a \$60bn total in the late 1980s to \$17bn out of a \$82bn cake in the early 1990s. That is, it has shrunk from more than one-third to just under one-fifth.

However, Ms Lea argued that it was no surprise to see countries such as France catching up in terms of attracting inward investment after a poor record in the early 1980s. Asian businesses would anyway want to invest in a range of countries. "They don't want to put all their eggs in one basket," she said. The UK still has the highest

level of existing, as opposed to new. Asian investment in the EU - about 40 per cent by value as opposed to 30 per cent for Germany.

The report says that a clear trend towards further liberalisation by the dynamic industrialising economies in Asia means While the UK holds the lead their overseas investment will continue to grow. For EU countries, continuing to attract this predicts that Eastern Europe



Adair Turner: Urging a positive tone on the EU for the sake of British business

New delays hit C&W's offspring

Chris Godsmark

Cable & Wireless has been faced with new delays in recruiting senior executives to join the board of the £5bn company it is forming through the clanned merger of its Mercury Communications subsidiary with three cable operators.

Sources suggested head-hunters drafted in by C&W have yet to finalise shortlists of applicants for some of the top posts, four weeks after the internal deadline of the end of January. The news is likely to add to

speculation that the complex task of creating the new concern, called C&W Communications, is slipping behind schedule. It is more than four months since the original merger announcement.

Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, is understood to have set a final deadline of 3 April to complete the merger and bring the business to the stock

In public C&W has insisted the target is only to complete the merger by the spring, a much vaguer timescale.

However the formal offer document for shareholders outlining details of the deal has yet to be completed. Financial advisers are said to be still discussing the position of the minority investors in the new empire which comprise Bell Cahlemedia and Nynex CableComms. Bell has already completed its £700m takeover of Videotron which was the precursor to the main deal.

So far C&W has appointed just three board members to run the new business and none of these jobs have gone to Mercury employees. Graham Wallace, the new chief executive poached from Granada's restaurants empire, has heen joined by Nicholas Mearing-Smith, finance director of Nynex CableComms and, a fortnight ago, Martin Hayton, personnel director of C&W's majority-owned Hongkong

The top firm of global head-hunters, Egon Zehnder International, are thought to be compiling a shortlist for the post of director of husiness communications. One likely candidate is David Sexton, who is in charge of services to Mercury's largest commercial customers. However, other board posts remain to be filled, including the crucial job of running residential telephony and television op-

erations.

Mr Wallace is believed to have said that additional time should be spent finding the best candidates. A spokesman for C&W last night said the process was on target, though he declined to reveal if there were any internal deadlines. "We are planning the next raft of appointments and it is progressing reasonably well."

The challenges come as C&W is thought to be moving closer to an alliance with the Global One partnership between France Telecom. Deutsche Telekom and Sprint of the US, which was one of Mr Brown's previous employers.

Boots chiefs contest top job

Nigel Cope

Boots has revealed its succession plans with the announcement that chief executive Lord Blyth will assume the role of chairman role in 1998 while two joint managing directors have been appointed with immediate

The two joint managing directors who will battle it out for the top job are Steve Russell, 51. managing director of Boots the Chemists, and David Thompson, 53. finance director. Sir Michael Angus, chairman, who was due to have stepped down from the role in July next year. witt extend his term to 1998. Boots said the new structure

paved the way for a smooth succession as Lord Blyth, 57, nears retirement. However, with two men placed in positions of equal power beneath him it seems clear that a power struggle is in prospect.

Mr Thumpson is well known in the City and has been on the board since 1990. But the reshuffle marks unother big promotion for Mr Russell who was

appointed to the board only last year. Previously managing di-rector of Do It All, the DIY business he became head of Boots the Chemist in 1995. The final piece in the suc-

cession jigsaw is that Brian Whalan, the managing director of Halfords is retiring early for personal reasons. Lord Blyth's elevation to the chairmansip in 1998 means be wilt have been chief executive of the retail giant for 11 years. This period included the disas-

trous Ward White acquisition in

1989 which brought with it the

troublesome Payless DIY chain as well as Halfords and the Fads and Homestyle decoration busi-City analysts said the changes should ensure a smooth transition. "It will not have any im-mediate impact on the running of the company. It is really just saying these are two favourites for the top joh." said John Richards of Nat West Securities.

get in each other's way. Comment, page 21

aging directors were unlikely to

Heseltine in secret talks with BA over US tie-up

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Boh Ayling, the chief executive of British Airways, held secret talks earlier this week with Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, in an attempt to hasten the carrier's tie-up with American Airlines. BA's proposed alliance with

American Airlines has progressed slowly and Mr Ayling is concerned that the general election may scupper the deal. BA's

managers say that the earliest that the merger could be signed deal to the Office of Fair Tradis this summer.

The airline has also consulted Labour officials and is confident that if Tony Blair takes over as prime minister, the deal will be

There are several obstacles in BA's way. Not least is the European Commission, which claims to have jurisdiction over the planned fle-up - a claim disputed by British ministers. lan Lang, the President of the

ing. The OFT told BA it must release 168 of its landing slots at Heathrow if the deal is to escape a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Experts have estimated that the proposed 168 slots, equivalent to 12 daily round-trip

flights, could not BA £180m. The dehate over slot trading has become crucial after Euro-pean Commissioners said the practice of selling the slots was

pany declined to comment on

suggestions that it might be in-

illegal under European competition law. However, it is understood

that Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner, has proposed a scheme which would allow slots to be valued and put on to an airline's balance sheet - thus ailowing BA to "sell" its allocation-This would also boost the balance sheets of many ailing stateowned carriers and increase support for BA from its European rivals keen on borrowing against the value of their slots.

The deal also faces stiff opposition in America. Officials in the UK point out that the American Department of Transport needs to recommend the tie-up and then consult with US airlines - who all oppose BA's plans. Any consultation period would take at least six weeks.

The alliance involves BA and American going beyond simple "code-sharing" arrangements to a deal where the two airlines pool revenues and facilities. Rival carriers in the US have

launched an unprecedented attack on the link-up, which would give BA and American 60 per cent of UK-US flight capacity. US airlines have said that BA and American would still be left with more than 3,000 slots at Heathrow. They have also claimed that other facilities,

including security checks, hag-gage handling and departure gates, are in such short supply that the open skies deal would in practice lead to little growth in flight capacity.

RTZ tarnished

by scandal at

Dutch firm joins queue for Unilever sale

Akzo Nobel, the Dutch chemicals group, has emerged as a potential huyer of Unilever's speciality chemicals businesses put up for sale earlier this month. Akzo's chairman, Cornelius van Lede, said yesterday he had "requested an insight handling the transaction". Analysts said the two joint man-

into documents with the bank He added that of the four husinesses up for sale Akzo would be most interested in the two smallest, Unichema In-

ternational, an oils and fats husiness, and Crosfield, a producer of inorganic chemicals However, he added that Akzo would also be interested in parts of National Starch, seen as one of the crown jew-els of the speciality chemicals husiness which could attract a

price of around £3hn. Another Dutch company. Gist Brocades, has already said it would be interested in buying the Quest flavour's and fragrances division, also expected to attract a high price tag.

Unilever has appointed Lazards to handle the sale. terested in French foods group Danone, after its shares rose However, the bank has not yet strongly yesterday. prepared prospectuses for the There has been speculation sinesses and the sale process that Unilever might prefer to is likely to take months. It has not yet been decided if Unilever strike in the United States with

companies such as Heinz. Campbells, CPC and Kellogg's will try to sell the division as one operation or as smaller parts. With the four companies ex-pected to fetch up to £5tm, there was further speculation yesterday on how Unilever might spend the proceeds. The com-

CURRENCIES

cited as potential targets. However, with new Unilever chairman Niall FitzGerald keen to expand the group's pres-ence in emerging markets it is possible that he will invest the money in organic growth or in

Sumitomo Magnus Grimond The Sumitomo copper scandal stashed profits last year at RTZ-

CRA, the mining giant, which also yesterday announced it was reverting to its historic name of Rio Tinto. The group said the fall in metals prices in 1996, mostly copper and aiuminium, had cost \$311m (£190m) in lost earnings, while adverse exchange movements. particularly the Australian dollar had shaved a further,\$38m from the bottom line.

The group is also facing continuing problems with the commissioning of its new copper smelter at Bingham Canyon, Utah, which represents the last phase of a \$2bn investment programme insti-tuted since the operation was acquired from BP in 1989.

Underlying earnings, stripping out exceptional items, aped 24 per cent to \$1.1bn (£701m) in the year to December. The group has moved to reporting its results and dividends in dollars, the main currency of its operations, which would

have resulted in a flat final divdend this year, the chairman, Robert Wilson, said. But in view of the recent appreciation of sterling the group has upped the final payment from 13p 10 13.11p, payable as a foreign in-come dividend, as a gesture to shareholders. Even so, the total rises only marginally from

31.5p to 31.71p.
Mr Wilson said the name change would be put to shareholders at annual meetings of both companies. RTZ-CRA really is too much of a mouthful", he said. The new name "has the great advantage of not becoming an acronym".

It harks back to the group's origins when it was floated on the stock market in 1873 as a developer of the ancient Rio Tinto copper mines near the river of the same name near Seville in

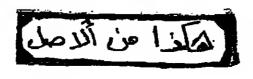
southern Spain.
At the end of 1995, RTZ, as the group became, bought in its minority associate in Australia, the former Conzinc Rio into of Australia, to form the current

Investment column.

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founded in the long run. Robert Lind of ABN Amro said: "We suspect the cure will be a wak currency ... people have switched from talking at a strong euro, to talking ut a 'stable' exchange rate ad That is very significant.

Great British Success Story is a complacent myth

While Britain is still the country of choice for inward investment into Europe, its share of all inward

COMMENT

investment has shrunk quite sharply during the 1990s, from one third to one fifth'

ference from our Continental neighbours that gives us a certain je ne suis quoi as far as inward investors are concerned and makes us the "enterprise centre of Europe". The opt-out from the Social Chapter, our deregulated jobs market, low costs and the English language – here in these islands foreign executives can do business and still

have access to the Single Market. Ministers have exploited the recession in the Continental economies and the struggle to restructure their economies to drum up evidence for the Great British Success Story. Why on earth would overseas companies want to invest in European failure, they have argued. Well, there you go. That's what politicians do at election time. The reality, unfortunately, is a rather less comforting one. As any British-based muki-national knows.

down and out. They are not the supposedly flabby and overweight sparring partners in export markets that the Conservative rhetoric might imply. Furthermore, for all the ecocomic problems on the other side of the Channel, our European partners are still far more productive and prosperous than Britain.
Figures from the UN yesterday further
undermine this complacent myth. While Britain is still the country of choice for inward

their Continental competitors are far from

investment into Europe, its share of all inward investment has shrunk quite sharply during the 1990s from one third to one fifth. It is impos-sible to know what the precise causes of this

suggests that growing Euro-scepticism may save been a contributory factor.

Monetary union sharply divides the British hosiness community. Big multi-nationals tend to be in favour, smaller companies against. However, even the bitterest oppo-nents of British membership of monetary union have come to recognise that the hijack ing of the political debate by a fringe of the Conservative Party has been damaging. There is no doubt that the most extreme Euro-scepties in the Tory Party want to shift the battle-

ground from joining the single currency to whether we should belong to the EU at all. Pragmatic business people have at last started to tug against this dangerous tendency. If an Asian conglomerate wants low costs and flexibility, it can turn to eastern Europe. If it wants to be sure of access to the EU market, France and Germany now look like the safe bers. It might be too late to prevent permanent economic damage.

A far from perfect compromise for Boots

Agreat deal of soul searching, hand dwringing and general angst must have gone into the decision at Boots on the management succession, for the chairman round there is Sir Michael Angus, he of both the Cadbury and Greenbury committees on corporate governance and executive pay. The | rendous results? Had he hung up the gloves

In the Government's eyes, it is Britain's dif- phenomenon might be but anecdotal evidence | structure had to be just so, or he'd be accused | at the end of 1995, the picture would have | hance of its original name - Rio Tinto. of hypocrisy. As it is this is a less than per- | looked a much better one, with the massive | There's more than nostalgia behind this very

> Sir Michael stays on for a further year as non-executive chairman, after which Sir James Blythe steps up to become executive chairman. On the face of it, this is most un-Cadbury. The code ideally requires a split in the positions of chairman and chief execotive. The distinction made by Boots between the position of executive chairman and that of chairman and chief executive is a fine one that most of us are going to have some difficulty in seeing.

> None the less, the reasoning seems understandable enough. By the time Sir James takes on his new role, he'll only have two years left to retirement. Part of his intended function during this period seems to be to act as a kind of referee between the two maoaging directors as they fight in out for the top job. Like most compromises this is not a particularly satisfactory state of affairs. Three powerful egos have for the time being been appeased, but the structure established could hardly be regarded as a stable one.

Giordano passes the buck

How should Richard Giordano at British Gas be judged, having bowed out as ex-ecutive chairman by announcing such hor-

provisioning of 1993 working new life into the profit and loss account before the takeor-pay problem came fully home to roost. Sadly for Mr Giordano, 1996 became a vin-

face year for the British Gas soap opera. packed with more nasty surprises than an omnibus episode of Eastenders. Some of them, such as the take-or-pay disaster, were not of BG's recent making. But others were. The alarming drop in customer service standards suggests BG's top team took their eye off the ball at the worst possible moment. The 1993 provisions should have generated annual savings of £600m, yet last year's inflation-

adjusted saving was just £436m.

Mr Giordano admits that the pace of change was too fast, but blames this on the industry regulator and the Government for moving too fast on competition. "That was a political decision," he complains. This will not wash. Top managers are not paid half a mil-tion pounds a year to pass the buck. The real test for both Centrica and BG this year will he proving that the bad years and the massive restructuring charges are over for good.

What's in an old-fashioned name?

towards abbreviation and returning to a sem- i nicely.

welcome move, however. Apparently the company kept on getting confused, some-times deliberately, with Ritz Crackers, Hard to believe, but true.

The Rio Tinto (wine coloured river) is in fact a river in Southern Spain, on the banks of which the company's original copper

mines were located. Floated on the London stock market in 1873, the mines were eventually sold to local interests in the 1950s and the money reinvested in Africa and America. There's not much chance of Rio Tinto returning to Spain but how much nicer the old name sounds than the letters.

Lamentably, most companies are still going the other way, the excuse usually being a wish to distance themselves from their "British" or "Imperial" origins, which these days are said to count against them in export

markets.
Thus British Telecom, shortly to become Concert, is for the time being just BT. British Gas has become BG and Central. British Tyre and Rubber company long ago became BTR. And so on, In some cases the acronym might seem rather appropriate. MAM for Mercury Asset Manageotent seems about right for a company headed by Carol Galley. As does FAD for Fine Art Developments, Most of the time, however, How refreshing to see the extraordinar Developments. Most of the time, however, the mamed RTZ CRA bucking the trend the good old-fashioned name does just

Abbey set to announce firm offer for ScotAm

Banking Correspondent ·

Abbey National intends to make a firm bid for Scottish Amicable today as part of its strategy of expanding its share of the life and pensions market.

We think we will be able to put forward a very attractive set of propositions," said Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abhey National: "A combination with Scottish Amicable would advance Abbey National's strategy of expanding further into life, pensions, investment and protection products."

The bank derives 40 per cent of its profits away from its traditional mortgages and savings base, but wants to increase that to 50 per cent. It bought Scottish Mutual, another life assurance group, five years ago. Lord Tugendhat said the bank's "record of managing a Scottish-based life office is a very good one".

If Abbey wins the bidding for Scottish Amicable, which has . called for firm bids from inter-ested parties by today, it would become the third-largest life company in Scotland.

Abbey bid £1.4bn for Scottish Amicable last month, derailing the insurer's plans to demutu-alise and eventually float on the stock market. But a bidding war was sparked when Prudeotial upped the stakes by topping Abbey's offer, and other po-tential hidders have emerged.

Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, yesterday

warned it was "premature and

unjustified" to believe the euro

would be a weak currency just

because European currencies

have depreciated against the

monetary union, held by Gold-man Sachs in Frankfurt, Mr

Tietmeyer reiterated Ger-

many's commitment to a strong stable currency. He said: "We

in Germany are interested in the

mark remaining a stable cur-

rency and in the euro being sim-

llarly stable and strong."
But he warned against irresponsible fiscal policy by mem-

ber states, something that the Bundesbank believes is a seri-

ous threat to the strength aod

credibility of the new currency.

The fact that Mr Tietmeyer felt the need to defend the po-

tential strength of the new cur-

rency in the light of the dollar's

appreciation reflects the emerg-

ing doubts in Europe that the

curo will be a strong currency

at all - doubts that many ana-

Speaking at a conference on

dollar in recent mooths.

pre-tax profits for 1996, excluding the costs of integrating National & Provincial, of £1.23bn, up 20 per cent. If the integration costs are included,

Abbey made a profit of £1.17bn.
Under the terms of the merger N&P members received shares at a price of 567p. Abbey's shares have since risen to 763.5p and Lord Tugendhat said the majority of the members who took shares held on to them.

The merger increased 15 per cent. However, its share of new business fell last year to 2.4 per cent or 6 per cent if N&P's share is included - even though it spent £365m on cash-backs and discounts to lure borrowers. The bank charged £187m of the cost of these incentives to its profits.

Ahbey stopped offering cash backs, and discounts for remortgaging business late last year but still offers them to home movers.

Next week it will launch a household management ac-count linked to Safeway's ABC bonus card, as part of a threeyear deal with the retailer which will eventually lead to the launch of debit card, a credit card and instore banking. Peter Birch, chief executive, will retire at the 1998 annual general meeting but Lord Tugendhat said yesterday his



Embracing new markets: Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National (left), and Peter Birch, chief executive, want to

Bristol & West's £1,100 windfalls

All Treamor

Savers of at least two-years standing with Bristol & West huilding society would receive an estimated cash payout averaging more than £1,100 each, chief executive John Burke said

yesterday.
The windfalls, which will be paid on or before 25 August, follow the Bank of Ireland's £600m takeover of the building successor would be appointed

Savers with less than two years standing at Bristol & West, as well as borrowers, will receive preference shares rather than cash, while savers who are under 18 years old will receive

a statutory cash bonus. Members will be sent voting forms on the merger, and the transfer document which gives full details of the terms of the deal, by 14 March.

Mr Burke, who earns a hase salary of £200,000, was paid a

bonus of £80,000 last year. The 14 April 1996, the day before building society announced - the merger was announced, pre-tax profits of £86.6m, an and 25 June, 1996. There will increase of 10.3 per ceot compared with 1995.

Bristol & West has 1.1 million members and around 430,000 of them have had accounts for more than two years and as a result are due to

The exact payment for individual members will depend oo the balance in accounts oo of £250 each.

be a fixed cash payment of £500 each with the remainder made up of 6.5 per ceot of the savers' balance.

Those who had less than £100 in their accounts on 14 April 1996, but who have held accounts at Bristol & West since 31 December 1994 will receive a flat cash distribution

On the offensive: Hans Tietmeyer believes that fiscal irresponsibility could pose a serious threat

According to some analysis, Italy and Spain cannot expect a sympathetic ride from France and Germany cither. Mr Lind suggests the French and Germans are keen to ensure the exchange rates at which member states lock together in 1999 are favourable to the French and German economies. But Mr Mackie is sceptical about the estent to which countries will attempt competitive devaluations in the run up to EMU. "The

economies genumely converge. ao interest in a smooth, stable According to Mr Jessop. if these transitional problems are dealt with, and EMU succeeds, "the euro could become a very strong currency".

The sheer size of the euro zone will, according to Mr Jessop, make it an attractive alternative to the dollar as a reserve currency for countries holding foreign reserves.

And he suggested that "the euro could eventually become Maastricht criteria make it too the new global reserve

GUS strikes £868m deal with British Land

Great Universal Stores and British Land have reached agreement on forming a joint venture company which will own GUS's £868m investment property portfolio. The joint venture will own 982 properties, which are mainly freehold and long-leasehold. On completioo GUS will have received £200m in eash fur British Land's nvestment in the venture.

It will also have been issued £500m of senior debt by the company and have a £200m investment in its equity. The portfolio produced net reotal income for GUS of £64m in the year to March 1996, Following the creation of the ocw joint venture, GUS will receive an income from its interest at least equivalent to 78 per cent of the income it currently receives for the first 12 months.

UK banks slow in preparing for euro

UK retail banks are significantly behind their continental competitors in preparing for the introduction of the euro, the single European currency, according to a survey by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, "Based on the results of the survey, UK banks have a lot to do over the next five years," said David Sayer, part-

ner in Coopers & Lybrand's retail banking consultancy.

The survey, conducted in conjunction with the European Financial Management and Marketing Association (EFMA), showed that the banks are placing a far greater emphasis on the implications for the practical conversion to the curo rather than on the strategic impact on retail banking activities.

In total, 22 banks from the UK, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and France participated in the survey, which represented 60-70 per cent of the retail banking markets in these countries. A third of the respondents are developing plans for conversion. with a further minority implementing plans already. Coopers and Lybrand said 14 per cent of them had not yet started to think Jili Treanor

Islay malt distillery to reopen

Glenmorangie, the specialist malt whisky independent, has bought the mothballed Ardbeg distillery on Islay from Allied Domecq for £7m in cash. The purchase includes the distillery, surrounding land and stocks, which alone are worth over £5m. Allied Domecq also owns the better-known Laphronig distillery. on Islay and the bulk of the Ardbeg output has been used by Allied Domecq blends. Blending stocks are more than adequate and the

distillery was mothballed last summer.

It will be recommissioned and should start producing again within six months, Glemmorangie's chairman Geoffrey Maddrell said.

The reopening will create maybe a dozen jobs in the distillery itself and four times as many in other trades in the island which has a population of around 4,000.

Charlton football club to float

Charlton Athletic, which plays in the First Division, said it planned to join the growing list of UK soccer clubs with a stock market listing, it will ruise £5.5m with a placing and offer of shares at 76p to existing shareholders, season ticket holders and supporters. The offer will value the south-east Loodon club at £17.4m. Proceeds will go to increasing the seated capacity of the club's Valley ground to 20,000. The commated adviser and broker to the issue is Teather and Greenwood. The offer of 1.3 million shares to existing shareholders is fully underwritten by Riehard Murray, and trading will begin on 21 March.

PIA to regulate long-term care products

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watch-dog, announced plans to regulate the sale of long term care (LTC) products once they are brought under the scope of the Financial Services Act by a future Government. The PIA's move will also bar insurers from selling so-called "budged" LTC cover, where they market a product created for them by a third party. Companies which want to sell an LTC product will have to create it. The regulator argued yesterday that if hadging were allowed, it would damage the principle whereby salesmen are permitted only to self their own company's products. This system, called polarisation, means independent financial advisers are the only ones who can select from across the industry's eotire range.

Dutch bank's profits sharply up

Soaring securities markets helped ABN AMRO, which owns Houre Govett in London, achieve a 26 per cent increase in 1996 net profits but the Dutch banking giant gave mixed signals about its prespects for 1997. ABN AMRO also said it planned a four-for-one share split and a buy-back of 1 per cent of its shares as part of a planned listing in New York. Net profit rose to 3.3bn guilders (£1bn) from 2.62bn guilders in 1995 and the dividend was raised to 4.2 guilders per share from 3.6. The annual results included the first disclosure of the bank's hidden reserves, which totalled 4,02bn guilders at the end of 1996. ABN AMRO set aside provisions of 340m guilders to adapt computer software for the advect of a single European currency in 1999 and the millennium, projects which it said would cost a total of 500m guilders over time.

Memory loss

Memory Corporation, the electronics components company, made a pre-tax loss of £4.5m last year, a increase from the previous loss of £1.9 m. Bill Hipp, the chairman, said: "We have a clear strategy that is inteeded to decouple the company from the vagaries of commodity pricing and to focus our efforts on high added value proprietary solutions," he said. The loss per ordinary share was 7.49p against 3.31p. Memory's shares by 7p to 45.5p.

Stanford Rook reaches trials stage

Stanford Rook Holdings made a pre-tax loss of £965,460 against £873.954 the year before. Eric Boyle, the chairman, said the company was undertaking Phase 11 trials on the use of its new SRL172 product in the treatment of various cancers and is researchine its use in the treatment of arthritis, circulatory disease and allergies. Initial marketing is expected to commence in 1998.

internally by this time next year. Tietmeyer underlines German commitment to a strong euro

Yvette Cooper reports on the debate over whether Europe's new currency will be weak or robust

According to Mr Tietmeyer, the recent depreciation of Eu-ropean currencies is not, in itself, a sign that the new euro will be a weak currency once es-tablished. 'Current exchange rate relations doubtless better reflect the fundamental economic data oo both sides of the Atlantic," he said.

As Julian Jessop from Nikko Europe explains: "Whether a currency is strong or weak depends a lot oo the stage of the economic cycle." The US economy continues to grow strongly. while many European countries are suffering sluggish growth and high unemployment. Fur-thermore, the fact European governments are tightening fiscal policies to meet the Maastricht criteria means looser mooetary policy is inevitable to stop European ecocomies

grinding to a halt. lysts believe will prove un-But the more important question - and the greater fear for the Bundesbank - is whether the euro will continue to be weak across the economic cycle. According to David Mackie of JP Morgan, "currencies over the long term tend

to follow relative inflation performance". The strength of the mark over the last few decades reflects Germany's low inflatioo performance - something made possible not least by the Bun-

desbank's hawkish zeal. The European Central Bank has been heavily modelled on the Bundesbank. The Maastricht Treaty makes clear that its goal will be price stability, and that it must be free from political interference. Nevertheless, it will lack the Bundesbank's long record of credibility.

More important, many fear that the new ECB will not be as hawkish as the Bundesbank, especially if Italy and Spain join too. In a recent report for the Economist Intelligence Unit, David Curry writes: "There is a concern that if and wheo the membership widens, the governors of central banks from more inflation-prone countries could take a less robust line on

limiting inflation. But Mr Mackie believes such fears are overstated. He points to the fiercely hawkish record banks in recent years. The with which-member states' difficult, and every country has currency".

Bank of Italy is behaving in an extraordinarily hawkish way - in some ways more so than the Bundesbank." He adds: "There has been a cultural change. No ooe believes there is any virtue in a burst of inflation." . Mr Tietmeyer's own concern

is that European governments will wreck the euro zone with fiscal profligacy, no matter how well-intentioned the ECB. High borrowing by undisciplined member states could push up interest rates across Europe and weaken European ecocomies. Mr Jessop said: "Other things being equal, the better the fiscal position in the long term, the stronger the currency will be." However, he added that a balance had to be struck; if fiscal policy was too tight, restricting governments' ability to cope with economic shocks, then the euro zone could be weaker, and the currency weaker too.

Mr Lind has a more deeprooted reason to believe the euro might be weak, if Italy and Spain join. "Look at the underlying fundamentals. Italy and Spain will find it hard to cope with a strong currency their labour markets are oot efficient enough, and their corporate sector is not competitive enough." The strength and sus-tainability of the euro in the long of other European central term will depend on the speed

Lasmo raises payout by 60% as profits double

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Lasmo, the oil exploration and production group, yesterday played down speculation of a shift in its dividend policy despite raising the payout to shareholders by 60 per cent, the first increase since its ill-judged 1991 takeover of Ultramar.

Joe Darby, chief executive. also pledged to beef up Lasmo's borrowing levels in fund extra investment nn locating and developing new wells this year. He made the comments as the company unveiled pre-tax profits of £67m for last year, almost double the £34m figure in 1995 and underlining the scale of the financial turnaround since the Ultramar acquisition. The news boosted Lasmo's share price. which gained 7p tn 246p.

The full-year dividend was hiked from 1.25p to 2p, which will be paid out of firreign earnings to avoid advance corporalinn tax. Mr Darby said dividend payouts were important to Lasmo's strategy, apparently signalling a shift in the company's previous approach. However he insisted this did not represent a transformation for

"We're nnt talking about be-ing a dividend stock here. We've improved the dividend from what was a very low level in response to the 1996 results but by what remains a very small amnunt. Shareholders should still look primarily to capital

Mr Darby also outlined an in-



Explorer: Chief executive Joe Darby said Lasmo would borrow more to spend on locating and developing new wells

Investment in appraising ex-ploration and production activities this year is likely to be £100m, up from £75m in 1995 and £54m the year hefnre. However cash spent on developing wells towards the final production stage fell in 1996 by £94m to £153m, reflecting heavy outlays the previous year on

land and hinted that its interest in heavy oil fields in the Italian Apennine mountains was progressing beyond expectations. Mr Darby said Lasmo had become the first foreign group to secure an nil partnership in Kuwait. The new concern, called Khaleej Petroleum, was with a local family which he

wards finding new sources of oil. expanding its activities in the hrushed off suggestions that Investment in appraising ex-vast oil fields to the west of Shetpolitical risks in Algeria made developing further lucrative fields there too dangerous.

The group's net debts dropped from £489m to £346m, a level which Dick Smernoff, finance director, said was almost too low. In 1992 Lasmo was left struggling with borrowings of more than £1bn following the purchase of Ultramar. Mr Smernoff added; "We'd prob-

pany up a bit. It just tells you how strong the balance sheet is

About a third of the increase in profits came from the rise in oil prices last year. Lasmo's oil earned an average price in 1996 of \$18.72 a barrel, up from \$17.09 the year before. Production levels in 1996 rose by almost 7 per cent, to 175,000

BSM shares fall as chief executive goes

Clifford German

Shares in BSM Group, the market leader in driving schools, fell 9p to 164.5p yesterday after the group announced the departure of chief executive Paul Massey, who guided the group from a privately owned company through

He was on a two-year contract and leaves with a £350,000 compensation package, worth about 18 months of total earnings. He remains available as a consultant but will pursue other interests.

He has been replaced by Richard Glover, previously the managing director and in charge of day-to-day running of the busi-ness. Mr Massey's departure is the result of a review of the roles of chief executive and managing director over the last three months, a spokesman said.

The announcement coincided with publication of results for the year to December, which saw profits before exceptionals rise

by 5.8 per cent to £5.69m, much in line with market forecasts. After deducting for the compensation package, the pre-tax profit is down 2 per cent at £5.27m. Earnings per share are dividend has gone up 10 per cent

Turnover rose by 15 per cent to £28m, of which just over 4 per cent came from acquisitions. The group now has 154 the year, and 2,220 franchised instructors, an increase of 39. Market share has risen about

l per cent to 16 per cent. The group's husiness this year has been affected by the requirement nn drivers tn complete written tests before

Liberty International

Magnus Grimond

Liberty International, the financial services to property group chaired by Donald Gordon, said yesterday it was ready to use its £2.1bn capital base to expand its financial

formerly known as Trans-Atlantic Holdings, launched Liberty International Pensions as part of its "Millennium Project" to relaunch the group into the world financial services industry following the sale its stake in Sun Life.

But David Fischel, managing director, yesterday played down the prospects of an imminent hig purchase. We could accommodate any sized acquisition, whether film, film or £100m, it doesn't really matter. But just because we have the

Mr Fischel said the group was "always opportunistic" if the right things came up, but it businesses of shopping centres, commercial property and financial services.

In 1995 the group received a net £400m from selling a half share in Sun Life, the UK insurer, to UAP of France, and Mr Fischel said it now had in effect an ungeared balance

His comments came as Liberty, which is controlled by Liberty Life Association, the South African insurer, reported a 7 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax taken by the BT pension profits to £100m for the year to scheme last year.

Sun Life disposal. A final divi-dend of 8.75p raises the total for last year by 10 per cent to 16p. Net assets per share rose 13 per cent to 445p and would have been nearly 500p if the market value of its Capital Shopping

Mr Fischel said in financia services the group would not stray beyond its three core areas of pensions, unit trusts

and offshore savings. Earlier in the week, it was an nounced that Capital Group International, part of the hig US fund management group of the same name, had paid £5m for a 10 per cent stake in Liberty International Pensions the same size stake as that

set to hit takeover trail

cash doesn't mean to say we are December, before taking acgoing to make an acquisition." Count of the £110m profit on the going to make an acquisition." Even so, the shares dipped 12p to 480p yesterday as the market absorbed the possihility of a big buy.

included, according to Liberty

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

RTZ hammered by plunging prices and production snags

Last year was an inauspicious time to launch the marriage of the UK mining giant KIZ with its Australian associate CRA Copper prices sank over a fifth in the wake of the Sumitomo copper scandal and Kennecott, the copper and gold mining group acquired from BP, continued to suffer grenlins in its new, state-of-the-art smelting facility at Bingham Canyon in the US.

Together, those two items designed profits in the year

decimated profits in the year to December, leaving them 15 per cent lower at \$1.1hn (£701m), or nearly a quarter down on the group's favoured basis, stripping out excep-tional items. As well as the merger itself, the comparisons are further complicated by the group's decision to move to reporting in dollars rather than sterling. It is perhaps appropriate that the combined group should be wiping the

state clean by changing its name back to Rio Tinto. RTZ certainly had its problems last year, Every 10 cents fall in the copper and alu-minium price knocks \$100m and \$55m off group earnings, so the 29 cents average fall in the former last year and a 13 cents drop in the latter would inevitably be painful. But RIZ could hardly be blamed for the \$324m those two metals

shaved from earnings. More easily controllable were the continuing problems at Kennecott, Had it been running at full design capacity last year, earnings from the copper smelter would have been \$150m more than they actually were, RIZ said. It ran at under 50 per cent. Analysts are relatively reassured that the problem is over. However, work to upgrade the casting capability in the early summer will see the operation closed

down for another six weeks. Elsewhere, KIZ continues to show its class, with anothproduction volumes last year, building on the 7 per cent average annual increase maintained since 1989.

The group's gearing is now back on the way up again, ris-ing from 16 to 22 per cent last year as capital expenditure is jacked up to between \$1.5bn and \$2bn over the next few years. Crucial to the future will be Indonesia. At its Grasberg

unit, a \$960m expansion will see production there rise from 118,000 tonnes of ore to near-trucks is strong. ly 200,000 tonnes by the middle of next year. So while the group's copper output is likely to be flat this year, UBS is forecasting an 11 per cent in-crease in 1999 on the back of this extension. The icing on that cake will be the likelihood

of more discoveries.

UBS are leaving their earnings figure for this year unchanged at \$1.23bn, putting the shares, up 5.5p at 949p, on a forward multiple of 18. That hlue-chip rating is fully de-served. Hold.

Lex moves up a gear

It has been a difficult transition for Lex from flamboyant Sir Trevor Chinn's US electronics to Volvo imports conglomerate of the early 1990s to a more focused, UK-hased motor group with an earnest, num-bers man at the helm. Less fun perhaps, but ultimately what the City likes.

Lex's shares, which traded at 554p three years ago have taken a pasting in the meantime but yesterday's 12p rise to 343.5p underlined a palpable sense of relief that the company has finally pointed itself in a sensible direction. Profits for the year to December were impressive enough at £51.4m, up from £42.2m

Earnings per share of 31.3p were 14 per cent higher than 1995's 27.5p and a final divi-dend of 9.6p made a full-year total of 16p, a 1p rise. But it is the strategie direc-

tion that catches the tye at new-model Lex, with its alarm-ingly youthful new chief executive Andrew Harrison dividing its husinesses into those that are firing on four those in dire need of a service and a handful of new operations itching to tear up their Lplates and try their luck on the corporate motorway.

Those in the first group include the leasing arm, Britain's largest, which still appears to have plenty of growth. The Hyundai importership has got over initial teething problems; Multipart has good skills which

Share price (pence)

RTZ-CRA: At a glance

The challenges lie in the other two areas, however. Car retailing's returns are below its peers and, by the company's own admission, inadequate. The truck market is also oversupplied and in need of attention. The new businesses autocentres, bodycentres and used car sales - need to grow but the City welcomed the suggestion yesterday that Mr Harrison will only do so when he is convinced the formulas

are right. On the basis of Panmure Gordon's forecast of pre-tax profits this year of £58.5m and £66.8m next time, the shares trade on a prospective price/earning ratio of nine. Lex is never going to trade on the same sort of rating as its more flexible, entrepreneurial peers like Reg Vardy, but it looks cheap none the less. Good value.

A hat-trick for Wembley

Wembley grabbed a hat-trick yesterday with its first dividend since 1992, a return to the black at the full year and better-than-expected profits. Not bad for company on the brink

of extinction a few years ago. The shares perked up 9.5p to 405p though it is worth remembering that they are still a tenth of their value in 1992.

Overseeing Wembley's re-cent rehabilitation has been Claes Hultman, the Eurotherm chief executive who was recently reinstated after a board room bust-up resulted in his temporary ousting. The massive re-financing of 1995 has been followed by the re-negotiation of the company's hank agreements on more e terms. All this ha removed the drag of the group structure from the operating activities which have delivered improved profits for the past four years.

Yesterday's figures continued the good news. Pre-tax profits of £17m compared with the previous year's £8m loss. The Wembley complex, which still accounts for half group profits performed strongly as did the US track venues.

Wembley hosted 29 events last year including 22 sporting fixtures and concerts by The Eagles and Tina Turner. U2 are aiready pencilled in for this

The only problem areas was UK greyhound tracks where performance is still being hampered by competition from the National Lottery.

Wembley's nomination as the preferred location for the National Stadium will help the company though the fi-nancial details of the deal have yet to be sorted out. Wembley has been a huge disappointment for many investors before but with strong

cash flow and good manage-ment it looks in better shape than for some time. On 1997 forecasts of £27m the shares trade on a forward rating of 11

BROWN BR TYO PARTS SERVICE Steering a new partnership: Phil Wragg, group managing director of Partco and Peter

Partco gears up to buy **Dana Distribution**

Clifford German

Parteo Group, the UK's largest independent distributor of car and lorry parts, has bought Dana Distribution Europe, which trades in the UK as Brown Brothers, one of the leading distributors of paint and finishing supplies to the UK bodyshop market. The pur-chase price is £103m in cash, including the repayment of £11m

The deal is subject to shareholder approval next month and is being partly funded by a onefor-two rights issue of 24 million shares at 300p each to raise £68.8m. The balance will come from cash and bank borrowings. The deal will virtually double Partoo's husiness, diversify its product range and help it match the trend in increasing consolidation in the UK bodyshop

market. The combined group

will have about 4 per cent of a

UK market worth around Partco had 348 hranches and Brown Brothers 134 hut in a business where speed of delivery is crucial their locations were largely complementary and widespread branch closures and redundancies were unlikely, a spokesman said vesterday.

be roughly earnings-neutral in the current year before the effect of restructuring charges, and to enhance earnings per share materially in 1998.

The acquisiting would give Partco market leadership in the sale and distribution of paint and finishing supplies where it currently had only a man, Gordon Yardley, said yesterday. About 88 per cent of DDE's turnover is in the UK where it owns 134 branches. The husiness made an operating profit of £10.9m last year on a turnover of £186m.

£43m cure for Vaux headache

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Sunderland-based regional brewer Vaux finally sold its St

Andrews mursing bome business fir £43.2m yesterday, confirming the worst-kept secret in the care home business. The disposal to Highfield, a Scottish care home group, had been rumoured since before Christmas and the price achieved

was in line with expectations.

Vaux has been trying to get out of nursing homes for some time, having abandoned the idea that running a care business was essentially similar to its existing hotel operations, only with nurses. Vaux's Swallow chain is well-regarded, but the company found running nurs-ing homes rather more difficult than it expected when it started building up the chain in the early 1990s. The sale leaves it focused on its core booze and snooze operations, brewing and

Highfield will pay £35m in

of up to £3m, payable three years after completion. The earn-out is based on the number of beds in excess of 1,550 occupied at the end of that third year with the full £3m payable if occupancy reaches 1,650 beds. Currently St Andrews has about 1,470 beds in 38 care homes in the Midlands, north of England and Scotland.

Paul Nicholson, chairman, said: This is an excellent result for our shareholders. We have achieved full value for St Aitdrews which will release resources for investment in our core businesses of brewing and pubs and hotels."

Despite its failure to capitalise

Commenting on the sale, Sir

on nursing homes, Vaux re-ported record profits last December, driven mainly by its successful Swallow operation. Profits of £34.8m in the year to September were 9 per cent higher after a 22 per cent rise in Swallow profits to £24m.

The company has struggled to shake off its image as a small recash on completion, up to gional brewer supplying a tired £5.2m in loan notes, repayable chain of tenanted pubs in a de-

ifter five years,	and an earn-o	ut pressed	area of the	country.
	Compa	ny Resu	Its	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £ .	EPS .	Dividend
bbey Hallenst (F)	- (+)	1.17bn (1.03bn)	56.5p (51.7p)	26,1p (21,75p)
SM Group (F)	28.0m (24.3m)	5.27m (5.38m)	14p (14p)	7.59p (7.59p)
arlingtes Group (F)	- (+)	0.12m (0.17m)	0.78p(0.95p)	0.7p (0.7p)
ii Group (i)	38.2m (35.4m)	-0,23m; (-3.60m)	-1,9p (-15,6p)	nii (Sp)
afroc (Í)	5.57m (4,59m)	7.81m (7.01m)	26.5p (24.8p)	5.8p (7.25p)
ex Servica (F)	1,56bn (1,56bn)	51,4m (42.2m)	31.3p (27.5p)	16p (15p)
therty intok (F)	221m (185m)	100m (93.8m)	21,62p (51p)	16p (14.5p)
lessary Carp (F)	1.07m (0.45m)	-4.5m (-1.9m)	-7.49p (-3.31p)	-(-)
eristi (F)	ir9.67m (ir9.50m)	11,64m (tr-8,85m)	16p (-68.7p)	-{-}
actica (F)	204m (164m)	10.5m (7.47m)	20.20 (18.40)	8p (/p)
eesto Group (F)	80.6m (66,5m)	7.81m (7.01m)	26.5p (24.8p)	8p (7.25p)
enistaw (I)	39.7m (35.7m)	10.8m (8.18m)	10 .84p (8. 89 p)	2.89p (2.41p)
tantere Rock (F)	- (+)	-0.97m (-0.87m)	-5.08p (-5.3n)	- (·)
haribles (E)	121m (102m)	17 1m / 6 1ml	20 6- 100 8-1	A

Siebe withdraws from bid contest for Whessoe

Magnus Grimond

Whessoe saw its share price drop 9p to 175p yesterday after Siebe, the engineering group, withdrew its bid for the instrumentation and controls group, leaving the way elear for a continental consortium which mounted a £52.6m counter offer on Wednesday. The rival hidders, Seatex Garex of Norway and Endress & Hauser of Switzerland, quickly moved into the market to build on a 10.6 per cent stake acquired from three of Whessoe's biggest institutional shareholders and ended the day with 25.6 per cent of their target. Last night, they were waiting for a recommendation for their 175p a share offer by the Whessoe board.

The market had been expecting Siebe to raise its 155p a share bid, which valued Whessoe at £46m, but Allen Yurko, chief executive, said yesterday: We do not believe that a sigmificantly increased offer would

be in the best interests of Siebe shareholders and the board has therefore decided not to increase the price that it is prepared to pay for Whessoe." He said that its offer was based on sound industrial logic and the "clear synergy opportunities" provided by integrating Whessoe's instrumentation lines with

Siebe's control systems division. He said the group applied "strict criteria" when looking at potential acquisitions, particularly with regard to product technology, growth potential and synergy opportunities. "Valuation, however, based on cur-rent trading conditions remains the overriding issue when considering an acquisition," he

Hans Olaf Torsen, chief executive of Seatex, which is changing its name to Navia next month, last night urged Whessoe shareholders to accept the consortium's offer. He said: "The Whessoe business fits perfectly with Navia's operaEndress & Hauser in the United States. We are pleased Siebe recognises that Whessoe has greater strategic value to us." Seatex is based in Trondheim

in Norway. It is hoping to merge Whessoe's Autronica marine automation and fire detection business, also based in Trondheim, with its own operations, which include air traffic controlrelated systems and shipboard navigation equipment.

Whessoe's instrumentation operations, which include the measurement and monitoring of large storage tanks, are seen as complementary with Endress, a private Swiss company.

Seatex was originally re-buffed after approaching the British group about Autronica at the end of 1995. It returned with Endress earlier this month, but was gazumped by the an-nouncement of Siche's offer. Siebe's shares ended 3.5p

CARY 1997 . THE INDEPENDED

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market report/shares



Carlton emerges as clear favourite to buy Rank films

Michael Green's Carlton Com- what will almost certainly be the clear favourite to buy Rank's film distribution business, famous for its archive of vintage Ealing comedies, for

£60m - well below the £100m-£150m previously indicated. The deal, which could be announced as early as next week, will complete a £300m deckclearing programme begun nine months ago when Andrew Teare became Rank's new

chief executive. A week ago Mr Teare confirmed plans to sell the film dis-tribution business and said he had received numerous expressions of interest. Names in the frame includ-

ed PolyGram, the music and film group, and VCI, the video publication company chaired by former Channel Four boss But Carlton, keen to ex-

munications has emerged as seen as a knock-down price. Rank is keeping Pinewood Studios as well as its film processing and video duplication activities. That legendary Rank symbol - the man with the gong

will also remain. Yesterday Carlton's shares clawed back some of their recent losses, closing 3p higher at 531.5p. Shares in Rank ended 8p lower at 420.5p.

Although analysts are likely to be disappointed with the price Rank letches for its film distribution arm, they are gradually warming to Mr Teare. Merrill Lynch recently changed its recommendation from neutral to accumulate on the prospect of a share buy-

back underpinning the shares. Separately, shares in Capital Corporation rose 11.5p to 213p as speculation persisted of a second bid for the up-



MARKET REPORT PATRICK TOOHER

to top London Clubs' hostile. all-paper offer of £181m.
The FTSE-100 index closed at an intraday high, up 9.9 at 4339.2 as dealers discounted a landslide Labour victory in yesterday's Wirral South by-election. Sentiment was helped by a steady start on Wall Street and a stream of generally upbeat company results.

Lasmo was in demand, rising 7p to 246p, after recom-mending a 60 per cent increase in the dividend – the first since the oil giant bought Ultramar six years ago. A healthy 6.6 milhon Lasmo shares were traded as a two-way pull developed

gested taking profits and Credit Lyonnais Laing pre-ferring Enterprise, 10p firmer

Results from Abbey Na-tional, up 4.5p to 768p, also pleased with Schroders among several brokers recommending the bank's shares. Not all news was good news, however. Bank of Scotland was the worstperforming blue chip and ac-tively traded after warning that profits at its 51.5 per cent-owned Australian Bank West subsidiary would be about 5 per cent lower than expected. The

shares shed 14.5p to 341p in volume of 15.5 million.

Amro Hoare Govett, the company's broker, placed venture capital group Cinven's re-maining 10 per cent stake with some 30 institutions at 275p.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett made a turn of over £200,000 on the deal, having picked up Cinven's stake at 272.5p.

Cinven organised the original buyout of Carpetland from Lowndes Queensway in 1991 when it cut its stake in the carper retailer form 13.2 per cent. Two years later it backed the acquisition of Allied Carpets. Superstore group Asda sold its entire 41 per cent stake in Allied at last year's flotation price of 215p. Last night the shares closed 1.5p lower at

280p.
Cheshire-based building contractor Amee advanced 9p to 121.5p after confirming the acquisition of a 41.6 per cent

of 17.7 million after ABN has teamed up with Spic's em- Salomon Brothers has ployees to complete the management buyout from French rival Schneider.

Pharmaceuticals were again in demand. Medeva moved to a record high of 315.5p, 5p strongly while the market healthier on the day, after may have exaggerated the still undervalued. Also entering uncharted ter-

ritory was Cantab Pharmscenticals, 27.5p to the good at 900p on news of another joint venture, while a positive analysts' meeting lifted AIM-listed Stanford Rook 20p higher to 560p.

In the technology sector shares in Eldos added 47.5p to

970p ahead of today's interim results while further consider-ation of this week's results from Sema sent the shares 12.5p higher at 1,262.5p. Pace Micro Technology remained weak, closing a penny down at

turned positive on cables group Delta. Its largest market - UK housing - represents about 35 per cent of sales and is recovering SocGen said the shares were threat from currency movements. A dividend cut is unlikely given the strong cash flow and improving earnings trend. The broker looks for pre-tax profits of £69m this year rising to £83.3m in 1998. That puts the shares, up 4.5p

at 351.5, on a prospective p/e ratio of 13 falling to 10. Shares in Incepta, the sales promotion group, are due to resume trading on Munday now that Citigate, the larger financial public relations and marketing firm, has completed its £34m reverse takeover. They were

pand its film activities, is expected to land the prize for	- market casino operator. Rank with Merrill Lynch urgin	The day's most active issue stake in French construction	a 85p. This week's profits warn- suspended at 21.75p in De-
Alcoholic Beverages Res of Resident State of St	market casino operator. Rank and Ladbroke are being typed diens to buy. Societa su en and the state of the	The day's most active issue was Allied Carpets on volume group Spic Batignoiles. Ame group of the control of th	Share Price Darks Share price the share price the price of the share price the sha
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business

Services sector surges ahead | Pannell Kerr Forster survives

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Turnover in services surged last year, according to the first detailed figures on the sector published by the Office for National Statistics. Architectural and engineering consultancy, private car dealership were among the fastest-growing services in the 12 months to September.

an initiative launched by the then-Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont, to improve the quality of economic statistics. The scale of the late saling and motor traders. 1980s boom had taken policy-makers by surprise partly be-

economy - was so limited.

The Bank of England has been pressing since last May for the collection of more statistics on the sector because of fears that the emphasis on manufacturing industry in the monthly eyes and security services, and economic statistics is as misplaced now as it was at the end of the 1980s.

In its Inflation Report, the The statistics are the result of Bank pointed out that the only timely monthly figures on the bulk of the economy were the official retail sales statistics and a CBI survey of retailing, whole-

Previously published figures for the total service sector show

cause information on services - that it grew 3.4 per cent in real sharply higher compared with which make up two-thirds of the terms in the year to December, the same quarter a year earlitwice the rate of growth of in-

dustrial production. So far the additional figures are limited to quarterly turnover statistics for only a proportion of total services. They do not break down the sales growth into separate price and activity increases. The ONS has calculated the figures back to the start of 1995.

There were marked increases in turnover in a wide range of businesses in the year to the third quarter of 1996. For example, sales of new and used cars, car rental, restaurant and campsite turnover, and film and video activities were all

er. So was turnover in "other" services, including dry cleaning, hair dressing and funerals.

There was also strong growth in business services such as law, accountancy, tax and management consultancy and mar-

Computer activities, from software consultancy and data processing to maintenance and repair, grew at an equally fast pace. The industry – which ex-cludes software sales – was worth nearly £15bn in 1995.

However, advertising turnover, and sales by travel agencies and tour operators fell during the year.

being the butt of many a joke PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Health and Efficiency, the magazine for naturists that has tastefully championed the naked form for over 90 years, has been sold by receivers to a new company after going bust last November.

Fred Satow and Mary Walsh of accountants Pannell Kerr Forster kept the mag going while new buyers were found. A specially formed company titled New Freedom Publishing, backed by Arthur Walker of Chronicle Publications, has bought the firm.

So did the receivers visit any nudist colonies while they were running the mag?

"No, we kept our clothes on at all times. We're char-tered accountants," declared Richard Knight, a senior ad-ministrator on the PKF team, with impeccable logic.

Apparently the previous publishers, Peenhill, lost their shirts on a diversification into magazines abont cats and dogs. Mr Walker is majority shareholder of the new com pany, with editor Helen Ludbrook also a shareholder. That's naked capitalism for

Speaking of clothes, or rather lack of them, on Friday 14 March the organisers of Comic Relief want everyone in the City to join in with "Dress down for Red Nose Day".

Prepare yourselves for Bank of England Governor Eddie George in Bermuda shorts, Hugh Stephenson of Mercury Asset Management in ripped jeans and Gavin Casey of the London Stock

Exchange in a body stocking. All three institutions have promised to dress down. The scapade even has the Lord Mayor of Loudon's approval, so presumably Roger Cork will be leaving the ermine at home for the day.

Each employee of participating companies will be asked to donate fil or more

and the total raised will be matched by the company. Comic Relief celebrities will be in the City's Broadgate centre at lunchtime to per-

Naked capitalism: But chartered accountants do it with their clothes on and despite the fact the re-ceptionists had his name, was Richard Royds of MAM is spearheading this part of the initiative. Models from top asked to provide "id - a cred-

it card - something like that".

ing an American investment

bank, perhaps they just like

On the other hand, this be-

sored by Reuters for the more athletic of you. For an entry form for the checking peoples' credit wor-thiness before they come in. Beware the 17-day fortnight latter, fax your name, address, company name and contact details to 0171-542 2151. in Libya, warns Jonathan Biles, chief executive of

agencies will be at the main

commuter stations to encour-

age dressing down, and there is a televised fun run spon-

playing any form of represen-

tative cricket at half century is admirable. To combine it with

his workload is something else.

Salomon Brothers are now

asking everyone entering their offices at London's Vic-

toria for "proof of identity".

A colleague of mine en-

for an appointment this week,

tered Salomons's reception

WorldCover Direct. Mr Biles wants to "lift the I hear David Arculus, who lid on the bizarre world of moved from Emap to be Lord travel insurance geography". Hollick's deputy at United News & Media this week, is He says: "Some partici-pants in this market have pestill turning out to play league cricket at the age of 50. To be

culiar ideas about geography and time. For example, many people do not realise that Lumn Poly thinks the Gambia is in Europe - rather worry-ing for one of the UK's largest travel agents!"
He goes on to say: "It is not

just travel agents who seem to be confused... buy two-weeks' travel insurance from one high street bank and they seem to think that means 17 days."

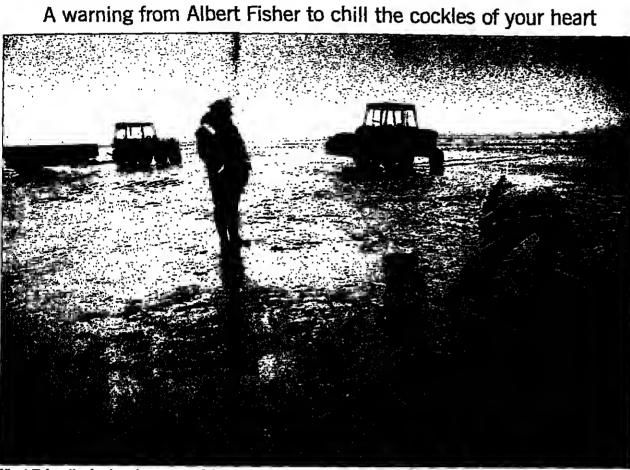
Mr Biles adds: "Trying to lure customers into buving Europe-only travel insurance products when Europe is defined so bizarrely can potentially be highly dangerous - most people, like nie, wouldn't think that Libya was

a European country... "People buying travel insurance should be careful not to rely on the geography described in an attes."

An American is taking the helm at Albright & Wilson. the international chemicals company floated off by the US conglumerate Tenneco

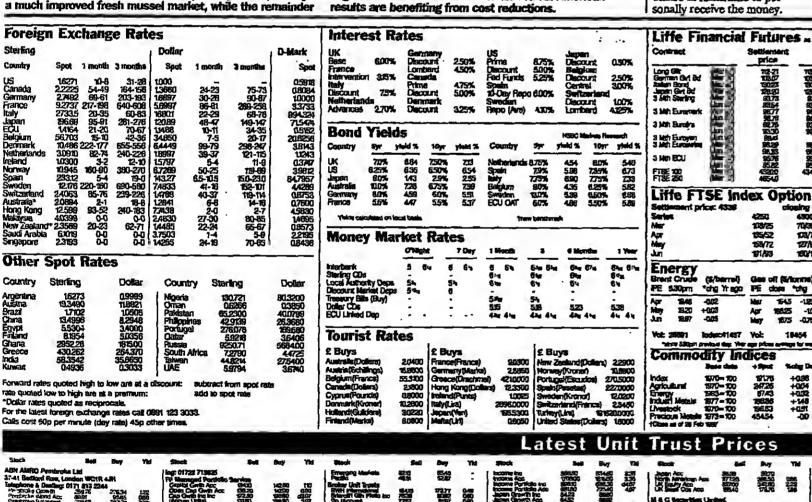
some two years and Paul Rocheleau, 43, eurrently president of the com-pany's US operations, will be relocating to the UK when he replaces Dr Robin Paul as chief executive of Albright & Wilson in July. The Midlands hased group is famous for putting the "tang" into Pepsi and the foam in detergents.

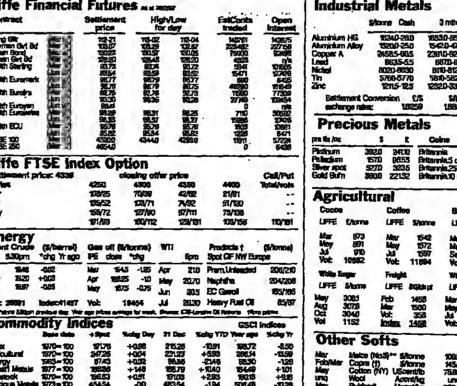
John Willcock

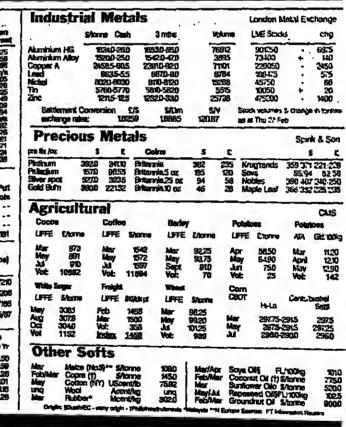


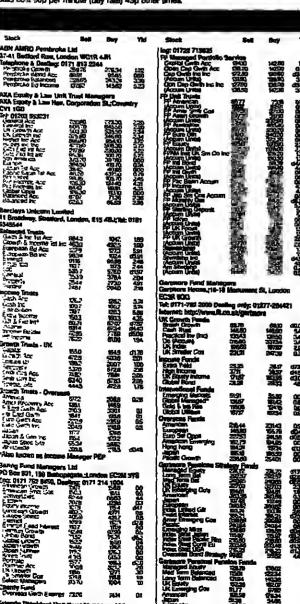
Albert Fisher, the food producer, warned that cocke bed devastation (above) was set to hit the company's first-half results to the end of February. The devastation of North Sea cockle beds last year "proved to be so severe that the autumn 1996 harvest was seriously restricted", a spokesman said. However, this was partially offset, and by a much improved fresh mussel market, while the remainder

of the seafood division has made good progress and is in line with budget. The European food processing division is performing in line with budget, although in the European fresh produce division, which earns the greater part of its profits in the second half of the financial year, the vegetable markets "remain difficult". North American

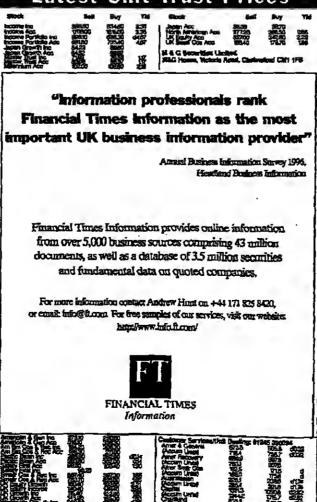


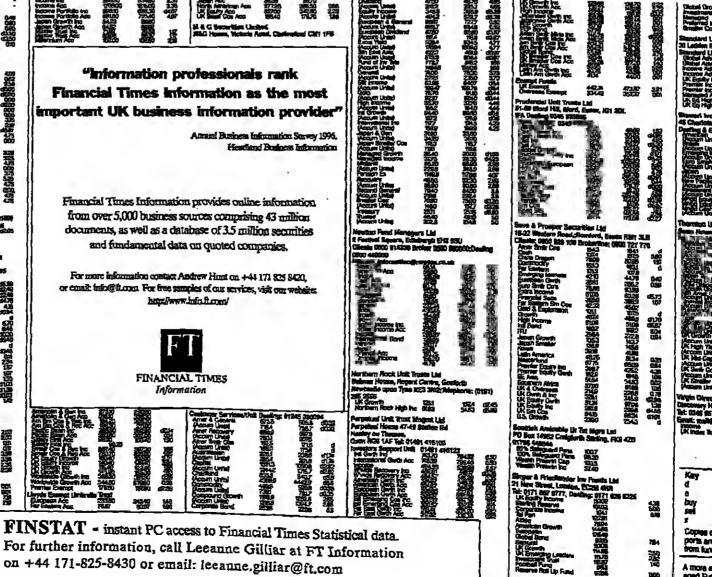


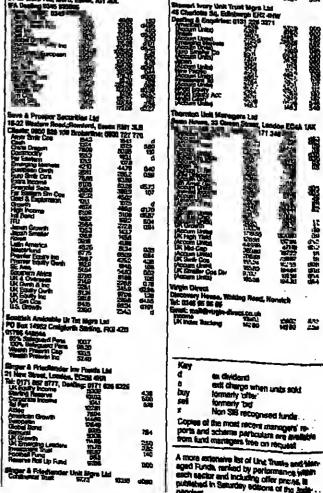












Shooting for another Murphy family Triumph

RICHARD EDMONDSON

One of the golden rules of talking in racing circles is to be careful of the company when passing the time with a spot of character assassination. Nn other sport quite matches the interbred communities of the turf and if you blacken someone in a puh in Newmarket or Lambourn, you can be sure a relative's ear is not far away.

Remember this if you ever have anything tart to disseminate about the Murphy family. Declan, the former jockey turned media analyst, may be the figurehead of the brood, but there are plenty of others out there. The Murpby family home is in Hospital, Co Limerick, which is said to be a small village. That means there can be few nther people living in the place. De-clan has four brothers and three sisters and, like him, nne of his nlder siblings. Eamon, has won a race at the Cheltenham Festival. A third name, however, may be added to the Cotswolds scroll a week nn Thursday.

Pat Murphy, the second eldest nf the tribe, should, according to the bookmakers, go close to saddling Shooting Light to victory in the Triumph Hurdle.

Such an eventuality is being portrayed as a quaint piece of giant-slaying, partly because

2.30 Kendal Cavalier

3.00 MISTER ODDY (nap)

GOING: Soft (Soft on hundles course in back straight).

3.30 Denham Hill (nb)

These are the premises occupied until his death by Murphy's father-in-law, Richard Holder. and a location which has led to both men being referred to, unfortunately, as Bristol handlers.

Neither is Murphy a hig gun, hut this ignores the fact that he and his wife, Louise, Holder's daughter, have played a part in

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Savoy (Kelso 4.20) NB: Kybo's Revenge (Plumpton 3.10)

one of the Triumph Hurdle's best recent records. "We were involved with Ikdam and Wahiba [both nf which ran under Holder's licence], who were first and second in the Triumph, so we've been there," Murphy

sprinters. We've prepared horses for the Stewards' Cup and the Wokingham [Old favourites in Bertie Wooster, Jigsaw Boy and Sir Joey and had them placed.

We've no doubts about our own ability to produce a horse on the day. It's everyone else that seems in questinn that." Pat Murphy, 39 last week, was

a jockey of some standing, riding 100 winners before an aw-ful day at Taunton in 1988 21,000gns at the July Sales. changed his physique. He broke his wrist, elbow and shoulder. Intact, though, was the Murphy trait of loquaciousness, which ensured he would not struggle in the communication husiness nf training. These boys have not iust kissed the Blarney Stone, they have had a tempestuous affair with it.

Declan Murphy's numipresence nn nur screens is such that said yesterday. "On the Flat it is hard to believe Dolly was the

No confidence in Call

Cheltenham Gold Cup betting vesterday after a workout at Clonmel racecourse satisfied his trainer and jockey, hut nnt the bookmakers' spies.

Ladbrokes pushed him out in 5-1 (from 4-1), with their spokesman, Simnn Clare, saying: "There have been doubts Murphy supervises just 15 hors- some time and we haven't seen and he felt a good hit stronger."

NEWBURY.

Course is SE of town near A34. Station (service from London, Pacitington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 514 [Juniors up to 17 years free); Tattersalls 58; Silver Eing 54 (OAPs balf price). CAR PARK: Free; Picnic area 54 per car plus 54 per person.

LEADING TRAINESS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson — 29 winners from 113 runners gives a success ratio of 25.7% and a loss to a £1 level state of £1.71; N Henderson —21 winners, 100 numers, 21.7%, £2.57; O Sherwood —16 winners, 64 numers, £2.4%, £16.51; M Fipe —14 winners, 82 numers, 15.9%, £15.51; M LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne — 28 winners, 148 rides, £3.7%, £9.40; R Dunwoody — 34 winners, 128 rides, 28.6%, £11.29; A Magniro—18 winners, 112 rides, 17%, £517.25; F Holley — 13 winners, 65 rides, £0%, £59.70.

BLINEERED FUST TIME: Penncaler (£30); Monks Sohan (£30); Mediane (visored) (£400).

(AUG), WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS; None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Moaks Sokum (3.30) & Lord Khaffee (5.00) have been acut 150 miles by G Hubbard from Woringworth, Suffolk,

2.00 ARDINGTON TRAITOTOL DON'T HAVE \$4,068

5 HULALEA (NZ) (25) (Maurice) E Pirto) Mes S Edwards 5 11 0...

Splendid Thysie, starting at 16-1, won a N H Plat race easily on this course lest March and had GET REAL 15½ lengths back in fourth. The latter, one of the favourites that day, did not help his cause by bulling hard. Splendid Thyne, a 10-length runner-up to the unbeater Bloadrinorn Shuffe on his hurding bow at Fothestone, went one better in a large field at largeling had took the minor placing against Queen Of Spades at Sandown a forthlight ago. He is pensitised only Afti for his win but may find Get Real too good. Nick Henderson's charge a linsh point-to-point source - was besiden 13 tengths by the smart French Holly on heavy ground in a bumper here last March, he will have learned from his opering hurding outing when amateur-ridden and fourth to Shadow Leader here three weeks ago, again talong a strong hold and weakening ofter leading from the third to three flights out. Norman Williamson bales the inde this time. Prys Ne Fool, winner of a Towcester N H Rat Race on his debut last season, will be the better for his first stituring over timber when lifth to Harbot House at Lingfield. Clinton, nurner-up in the last two of his time races this season - to Legible at Humington and Peace Lord at Falventiam, might do best of the others. Strong Tel, third behind Lady Rebecca in a Chepstow tumper in November on his first appearance since the spring, and Henrietts Ringfirts Milkhary Law, fourth of 20 in Quini Eage on his introduction in a Kempton bumper the same month, could go well.

2.30 HAMPSHIRE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m Penalty Value £3,852

2079-20 LOTTERY TICKET (7) Man Parket) I George B 11 10 C 0 The 215240 REPORT CHARLES (27) (Aistreas Wingleid Dight G Balding 7 11 1 B Feb 20441 SOTHEL MAY (13) (D Broeks) I. Mortaghe Half (10 12 Life) J. F Talle F33111 CARROMAL RILLE (12) (Pept J Murch Miss. V Williams B 10 12 169; N. WWIlliam PP-6144 TOP MYALIN (N2) 227 (Mas Valene Thum N Hawte 10 20 11 R George B 10 12 18 No. 18 No

Minimum weight: 10st. True transicap weights: Country Neeper Sct 13b, Purbeck Rambier Sct 2b. BETTING: 9-4 Cardinal Role, 4-1 Sopbie May, 11-2 Kendal Cavaller, 7-1 Lottery Ticket, Top Ja

1890: Danget Babli 6 10 13 P Holley 8-1 (0.1 Whiterins) 15 ran

CARIDINAL RULE keeps improving and can complete a four-timer even though racing off a
23lb higher mark than when he began his working run at Plumpton last month. Venetta
Williams's runner went on to win bace at Hemiord, making vertually all to beer Super Ractart
1.1 days ago off a rating 9th lower than todays. Lottery Tielest is up against it conceding
Cardinal Rufe 1.2lb. Tom George's charge did not do badly on his chasing bow when bear
in two and a half lengths by Golderswin over ourse and distance in November but blundered and unsexted early at Southwell on his only start since when dirtung from 5-2 to
twice those odds. He might need this down, I loughest mad may he Sophie Riley, a Windsor faller last time but successful at Lingfield before that, running on strongly after taking
command three fences out to beat Societhect four lengths. Societies did not set that
form down when short-hespied by Red Branch, gwing the winner 24th. Kendel Cavallier,
who won on the heavy at Newton Abbot in November and was beaten four lengths by Martners
Merror at Lungfield the following month, is not out of it despie being will beaten in his kis
bio outings. Pennicaler has not shown enjiting in three races over fences but looks the
type to make a chaser and sports first-time bilinkers.

Selection: CARDINAL RULE

3.00 GEOFFREY GILBEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £4,429

- 4 declared Alimenum weight: 10st. True hamdeng weights: High Attacke 9st 13th, kings Cherry 9st 13th.
 BETTINK: 5-4 Mister Ookly, 13-8 High Attitude, 11-2 James The First, 8-1 Kings Cherry
 1998: Mister Ookly 10 11 4 J Cultory 2-1 (J King) 7 ran

5-1 Major's Legacy, 10-1 Penncalor, 12-1 Country Reoper, 20-1 Purbock Ra 1896: Dangel Baby 6 10 13 P Holley 8-1 (D L Williams) 15 ran

ns 6 11 0......N T Egan (7)

ARDINGTON 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C)

4.00 Holland House

4.30 Infamous

5.00 Moonlighter

a penny for him in recent weeks. Today's below-par workout only confuses the picture further.

But the gelding's inckey, Conor O'Dwyer, said he was satisfied with the horse, two weeks before he defends the Gold Cup. "I'm happy ennugh that the horse is in good form, he said. "It's the first time I've surrounding Imperial Call for sat nn him since the Hennessy

less than three years since Ar-cot threw him into the Grim Reaper's parlour at Haydock, hut, a near-death experience later, he was soon back to his finest chattering class. Pat, too, seems to require respiration as regularly as a sperm whale, but there is more to him than verhiage. He picked out Shooting Light, whose only credential was a win at Hamilton, for

At first, a return on the investment looked unlikely. "About three weeks after we bought him I rang the owner to tell him the horse was showing us absolutely nothing," Murphy said. "He was working worse than a selling plater. Even then though I got the impression he was working just enough for the horse he was working with." The racecourse has had the

awakening properties of a freezing shower on Shooting Light and he goes to hattle after two hurdling wins and single defeat, when conceding chunks nf weight. Victory in the Triumph Hurdle might see an unusual use for the race's prize. Murphy smoked cigarettes endlessly as a jockey but has since changed to a pipe. "I started smoking it at home because f thought it gave me an air of authority," he said. A Cheltenham trophy might he the most memorable receptacle in which to tap out

PORM CUIDE

MESTER ODDY goes off a rating 1.4b higher than when justifying favouritism in the corresponding event a year ago but can etil stage a reposest coming here in cracking form with three wine and a second from four races this term. Misser Oddy, who goes off the seme mark as when winning under a 5th penalty at Sandown a fortright ago, is 6th worse in with High Allittude, who finished a length-and-a-quarter-runner-up to him over course and distinct three weeks back - the unrelable Jennes The First traited off when pulsed up after winning at Navion Abbot the time before - but can confirm supernotity. High Allittude was a failer four out, though holding every chance, on his respectance behind Super Tactics here before that, Kings Chesry has Brished numer-up in his last two races but they were in lesser company at Plumpton and Humbington,

Selection: MISTER ODDY

3.30 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f £3,288 | 1.0 | 1.3162 | LAKE KARBA (74) (BF) (The Isla Kafbe Parinership P Nichols 6 11 13... Commins (7) 246274 | BION V (FR) (Z2) (Ars E N Bousquet-Payne) C Weil 11 11 8... | K Gends 3 01.330 | THE TOISEACH (21) (CD) (T & J Vestey) J Farshave 6 11 3... | A Thomson 1.32223 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) V Hancy A J Wisson 6 11 3... | A Thomson 1.32223 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) V Refile J 1 New 1816 7 11 2 | R Forman 1.32223 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) V Refile J 1 New 1816 7 11 2 | R Forman 1.32223 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) V Refile J I New 1816 7 11 2 | R Forman 1.32223 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) V Refile J I New 1816 7 11 2 | R Forman 1.32223 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) V Refile J I New 1816 7 11 2 | R Forman 1.972 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) (D Refile J New 1916 7 11 2 | R Forman 1.972 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) (D Refile J New 1916 7 1 1 2 | R Forman 1.972 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) (D Refile J New 1916 7 1 1 2 | R Forman 1.972 | LISB MISLARRENOURE (10) (D REFILE S LI

10-1 HOOMED NAMES CHOSS Bone, 20-1 Kno's Cross 1998: Yes Man 7 10 8 J F Tidey 11-2 (Mrss H Knogs) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

OATIS ROSE, shows her best form towerds the spring and landed the Hoechst Panacur Mares
Final on heavy going over course and distance last March. She townced back to her best
lest time when short-heading moriest leader Dantes Cavalier at Sandown and can overcome
the 7to has, Deshbam Hill also shout, form when coming home by 14 fengits at Formore
(2m6(110)ds) and had earlier iniched time lengths behind short novice Red Blazer at Leicesler. He could give Catis Rose plenty to do. Lord Michterrough won at Zaurton and Exeter
text sascon with out in the ground, and has been placed in all five stars so far but season,
the lettest when a 12-length third to Kintavia if Falsoniann, He is 2to lover today, take Karlba, who went in at Chestow in October on his respectance and at Newton Abbot (head)
the following month, has not raced since a second to Desno's Beand on the latter track in
December but should be fit enough.

Selection: OATIS ROSE PORM GUIDE

4.00 PETER HAMER MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m Penalty Value £1,576

1 1/1511-U HOLLAND HOUSE (16) (D) (BF) (E Angri) P Charmes 11 12 S

– 9 declared – FIRMS: 8-13 Holland House, 3-1 Miss Millwook, 9-2 Clabraches Led, 12-1 Medians, Principle 1996: Colonial Kelly 8 11 8 Mr P Hacking 11-8 (Mrs O Grissell) 6 fan

FORM GUIDE HOLLAND HOUSE has a good record in points and has landed hunter chases at Lingfield HOLLAND HOUse has a good record in points and has landed hurser chases at Lingmed, Chapston and at Chellenham last term — mistering Coonse Hi a head at the Weish rock. A hitport at Lingfield on his reappearance 1.6 days ago in the same race he won by 20 lengths first time up last season. Holland House was in third place when he stumbled and unseated three fences out behind Visoritis De Valmont on his reappearance and is well worth another chance. Mise Billiandok looks the right one for the forecast, howing won in the style of an improved mare when 25 lengths too good for yesterday's Lucidow scorer Cape Cottage at Hereford on her return.

4.30 HIGHCLERE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,652 OO ALPINE JONER (15) (The Cobe Permarship) P Hobbs 11 0 — BARON HEMBOVSKY (P J Ornel G Thomas 11 0 — 4292 CRICUS STAR (27) (The Regnasses 0 Orbitolism 11 0 — CLASSIC VICTORY (Classic Blookstock Ptg.) Campbel 11 0 . K Good CLASSIC WICTORY (Classe Stoublock Red | Campbel 11 0...
GRINGER FOX (USA) (Marin Von Dounel Mrs J Pitten 11 0...

O HISAR (23) (Lac) (Log) Weiger C Brote 11 0...

BRANDOUS (USA) (Li) Mrs Bartian Mention R O'Sublem 11 0...

THINDARY (J Marin) O Gondon 11 0...

A TRIPICHEY (24) (The Lors Peter Partnership Mass H wight 11 0...

WHINERORY (R Harding & Partners) P Nations 11 0...

G SALLY GRIL (23) (Peter Caley Racing) J Moore 10 9...

SALLY GRIL (23) (Peter Caley Racing) J Moore 10 9...

SALLY GRIL (23) (Peter Caley Racing) J Moore 10 9...

SALLY GRIL (23) (Peter Caley Racing) J Moore 10 9...

SALLY GRIL (23) (Peter Caley Racing) J Moore 10 9...

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SALLY GRIL (24) (Peter Sally Racing) J Moore 10 9...

SALLY GRIL (24) (Peter Sally Racing) J Moore 10 9...

SALLY GRIL (24) (Peter Sally Racing) J Moore

BETTMC: 5-2 Infamous, 3-1 Ginger Fox, 4-1 Circus Star, 8-1 Tietcher, Ta 14-1 Timidjar, Wilhorkey, Zaissa, 20-1 others 1998: Hatta Bresze 4 10 6 R Johnson 3-1 (D Nicholson) 8 ran

tarmuck Pub., Trained by Henry Ceci when mind to st leger winner shannou on his debut at Sandown in May and successful at Chester in September, can make a winning start to his hurdling career. He changed hands for 75,000ghs at the Autumn Sales. Inflamous, who went to Roland O'Sulvar's stables for 24,000ghs at that same sale, won at Leicester (soft) test March when trained by Paul Cole. He shaped with promise when an eight-length third behind Red Rays on his hurdling debut at Windsor - Salty Glif and Nilsar both unplaced - and is the obvious threat with improvement on the cards. Selections GINGER ROS

5.00 WHATCOMBE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 5f £2,979

5-412 STORMT PASSAGE (65) (89) (Piets Luffi P Holes 7 12 0...

O'291 CAPTAIN MCR (43) (Cite 0 Scripti M Pipe 7 12 0...

513003 UNSINGABLE BOUER (25) (Paul Green M Water 8 11 7 ...

50-65-1 PLAULET WOOD (32) (May 0 A La Troce R Budfer 6 10 13 ...

RSO-4 LANGEN'S TRESSURE (28) (Nest H / Flower) Mrs 5 Williams 8 1 ...

2402 LORD RIPAULEC (18) (G A Holes M / Flower) 6 10 4 ...

006-P32 MOORIGHTER (18) (Gold Lop Roong C Relsson 7 10 3 ...

7 decision 7

T declared — T dec

FORM GUIDE
STORMY PASSAGE can dely his heny weight wan Glenn Tormey taking off 3lb. He stormed
home by 17 longins in the mud at Newton Abbot in December and was beaten five lengths home by 17 longins in the must as sewind would in December and was beaten live length by Master Rim all Uthorster. That winner was a good second to Sannactino at Kempton or Seturdey. There is better still to come from Plaudey Wood and he should make a bold bit to supplement his Plumpton volony off a 5th higher mark. Capitalin Jack gives off the sami mark as when justifying Calouritism at Kempton but the opposition was weak. Lord Rhall lee has not had much racing and did not do body when an eight-length numer-up to Lough lee has not had much racing and did not do body when an eight-length runner-up to Lough Tully on softish ground at Sendown. Moonlighter was the only one to make a race of h

HYPERION

2.20 Call Me Black 2.50 Clash Of Swords 3.20 Celidh Boy 3.50 Marelio 4.20 Royal Jester 4.50 Palacegate King

■ Undulating course, Run-in of two furiongs,
■ Course is N of town off B6461. ADMISSION: Chib £10
tensalis £7 (OAPs £4, under-16s free). CAR PARE: Pres.

BLINKERED FORT THEE None Winners in last seven dats: None. LONG_PHETANCE PUNNISHER Stay Selection (2.50) has been sent 234 miles by J Mackie from Church Broughton, Derbyshire.

2.20 CYRIL ALEXANDER MEMORIAL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f PPP-063 DESPERATE DAYS (17) F Keby 8 11 5...... UDOSF5 FREE TUNE (6) Mrs 8 Bredburne 7 11 5..... 040 KALAJO (14) 6 Mechagant 7 11 5 DAPPP LYPORD CAY (12) J Bookey 7 11, 5 ... SAFETY FACTOR 3 H Johnson 9 11.5. _ASS 2240- TWO FOR ONE (420) Mass LV Russell 8 11 S.... - 11 decimed -

ty Factor, S-1 Two For One, 14-1 Millies lengts, 20-1 Desperate Days,

2.50 PENNY FARTHING RESTAURANT HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds C5 KNAVE (16) P Montesh 10 12 _____ P PRINCIPAL BOY (26) T Emerington 10 12 ____ ANNA'S GEM Mrs 5 Bactoure 10 7 _____ O POLITICAL MANDATE (14) R Nicon 10 7...

- 7 declared -BETTRIE: 5-6 Clast Of Suords, 11-8 Gry Ruby, 8-1 Knave, 10-1 Principal Boy, 12-1 Anka's Gem, 10-1 Jungle Presh, 20-1 Pullical Mundate

3.20 M & J BALLANTYNE AMATEURS H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 4f

DILAGO MENNOT FETILE (20) (20) 6 Richards 12 12 0.Cupt A Oghan (7)

PERONU CENUM BOY (12) (20) J Goodelow (3) 11 11.July R Hain (6) V

RE2-10P FINK CHR (12) (20) J Goodelow (3) 11 11.July R Hain (6) V

RE2-10P FINK CHR (12) (2) J Goodelow (3) 11 11.July R Plant (8) CHR (12) SERRONG (20) (20) (2) J Goodelow (3) 10 July R (12) SERRONG (20) (20) (2) J Brackins (10) Mine P Robert (8) AV123 SERRONG (20) (20) (2) J Brackins (10) Mine P Robert (8) SERRONG (20) (2) CONTROL (17) J Storey (10) 0. July C Storey (8) AV123 CHR (17) J Storey (10) 0. July C Storey (8) AV123 CHR (17) J Storey (10) 0. July N Brackinson (7) Results (10) July C Storey (8) Control (10) July C Storey (10) Ju

3.50 HENNESSY SERIES FINAL NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2m 2f

HETINE: 1.2 Marullo, 7-2 Ask The Botter, 5-1 Dans Point, 9-1 Minter Ross 10-1 Brandius Way, Star Selection, 20-1 Maple Ray, 25-1 Mich Ross 4.20 ALBA COUNTRY FOODS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 3m 1f

4.50 SHIP HOTEL EYEMOUTH HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 2f

- 9 DECEMBER - 9-1 DECEMBER - 9-2 DECEMBER - 9-2 Election, 6-1 Ingletonium, 6-1 Heliotociale, 9-1 Common Sound, 10-1 Field Of Vision, Aragon Apr., 20-1 Feetivel Pancy

3.10 WIVELSFIELD NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds

PRIMERON BRIDERY

HYPERION 2.10 Rhythm And Blues 2.40 Indian Arrow 3.10 Roskeen Bridge 3.40 Normarange 4.10 Golden Opal 4.40 Bula Vogue GOING: Heavy.

in the course, commands course wan easy better. I may appeal thill fence in back straight. Uphill run-in of 200yds.

Course is off A275 S of Haywards Heath. Plumpton station adjoins course. ADMESSION: Members \$12; Tattersalls \$8; Course 54. CAR PARK: 54 (centre of course) & \$1.

SS

BLINKERRD PIEST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DESTANCE EUNNEES: Apolloso (2.10) & Mister Blaice (3.10) have been sent 186 miles by R Lee from Byton, Shropshire. 2.10 CROWBOROUGH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS

E) £3,000 added 2m 1f FD APOLLOMO (23) R Lee 5 11 2 _____ W Hearton
2 By70 THE WEST (23) Mrs Merron Jones 5 11 2 ____ Derek Byroc
2/1/ MAY SUNSET (935) C Egenton 7 11 2 ____ J A McCarthy
03-405 RHYTHM AND RUDS (13) R Burdler 7 11 2 ____ JR Pound 3 TONKA (21) O Gandolfo 5 11 2 TORIKA (21) D Gardolfo 5 11 2 Mr P O'Rendle (7)
MY NAD KNOWS J Poukon 4 10 8 J J Memphy ONE IN THE EVE (37) J Pouton 4 108... CONTRACT BREDGE (29) P Hurphy 4 10 3 W McParland 9 decisred –
 BETTING: 15-8 Tonks, 11-4 Rhythm And Blass, 100-30 late The Web, 12-2

May Surset, 12-1 One in The Eye, 14-1 Contract Bridge, 26-1 Apollono, 38-1 others

2.40 PLUMPTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m

ROADRIBUGER Mrs L Richards 7 11 2. BETING: 10-11 Indian Arton, 15-8 Court Master, 5-1 Purbeck Caraller, 25-1 East So Stoe, Roadcurroer, 33-1 Planegain 3.40 COOKSERIDGE MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m 1f 110yds

— 9 cuctared — BETTHC: 4-5 Normarange, 11-2 Apatom Heti, 13-2 Jap Del Prince, 7-1 Rolleston Blede, 10-1 Pambridge, 12-1 Contours, Mikis Pet, 14-1 Portyk-

4.10 CHARLEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 5f

4.40 PORTSLADE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 4f 161133- TONYS GET (274) (C) (D) M Pipe 5 120 ...

Michimen weight 7nue handlesp 1-7 declared - Michimen St. Str.
BETTING: 9-6 Mayls Mayls, 11-8 Bada Vegin, 4-1 Tomps Gift, 13-2 St Ville, 10-1 King's Gold, 14-1 Script, 16-1 Quiet, Micromana.

SOUTHWELL

HYPERION 2.15 Maradi 2.45 El Nido 3.15 Daawe 3.45 Carburton 4.15 Sarasi 4.45 Maftun

Blocker ADV 24 Howest Fund obsep, oval course.

Course is for W of Newark, Rollescon Junction adjoins course.

ADMINSTON: Chib 12: Tsucressis 56 (OAP members of course's Dismond Club 54, under-10s free). CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: ROTIGE (4.45). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Pleasure Trick (3.45) won here on Monday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: 1 Don't Think So (3.45) has been som 210 miles by T filed from Lynton, Deven.

2.15 SKEGBY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 4f 46600-6 APICULATE (14) 5 R Bowing 9 C. ... 4600-55 GOOD DAY (4) C Thomton 9 C. 633330- MARADI (141) M Bell 9 C.

BETTENE: 4-9 Maradi, 11-2 Wo

2.45 NORMANTON CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,100 added 1m 6f 0-41450 UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA (11) (C) M Bioloy 5 8 12 ...

3.15 MARKHAM MOOR HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 6f

2.7,500 240060 GP

1 300342 STOPPES BROW (83) (D) G I. Moore 5 9 12 ... 8 Duffield 13 V

110015 CREAM (RT (83) (CD) H. Littorden 6 9 9... 18 McLaughin 42 V

3 01001-2 BOLD EFFORT (18) (D) K C-Brown 5 9 9 ... W Ryan 8 V

4 086126 SANJORBANTE (83) (CD) S R Burning 89 4 ... S Webster 1

105-001 PRIMA SULL (18) (CD) M Ryan 8 8 12 ... A Clark 10

6 500-024 BROMSDRINS BEWINTY (9) (CD) 0 Store 7 8 10.C Tengue (8) 7

210012 BJON LEDGER (13) (CD) BP) M Mercus 98 8 8.S. S Marcon 5 V

8 111-950 MR RROSTY (17) (CD) W Jeres 5 8 6 ... S ... G Carter 4

9 300300 DAMWE (USA) (112) (CD) May V Aconiny 6 8 3 ... M Deering 8

10 00041-6 MRSIBER OF PRISSON (EI) (D) (SP) J BROWS 68 3 ... A Dely (S) 11

2101-255 CHARMEL HALL (B) (CD) S R Bowing 6 8 3 ... A Dely (S) 12

211-325 MAUGHTY PISTOL (EI) (CD) P (SP) K S 7 10 ... J O Weigle 2 2

12 210-223 BOLD FROMSTER (7) (G) (EP) K Noy 5 7 10 ... J Opens 2 2

- 13 decidend - Minimum verger: 7st 10th. True handledge weight: Both Frontier 7st 9th.
Minimum verger: 7st 10th. True handledge weight: Both Frontier 7st 9th.
BETTIME: 4-1 Both Effort, 8-1 Minister Of Passion, 13-2 Elten Ladger, 7-1 Hold
Frontier, Stoppes Brow, 8-1 Demon, 10-1 Broadshales Seattly, Cryston 6th, 13-1
Salformalia, Prima 5th, Hangday Pistol, 14-1 Chedwell Hull, 20-1 Mr Freety

3.45 RETFORD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 2-01.110 10HQCHIP BOY (4) (CD) M Ryon 6 10 0. 30(3F-1 10N071Y HILL (21) (C) R Chapt 5 9 11 _____ D Hollood 13 11/3000 CARBURTTON (83) J Glover 4 9 9 _____ G Content 8 046135 SUEZ TORMADO (205) (D) E Alston 4 9 9 ____ K Fallon 9 31-1415 ROYAL CARLTON (169 ED) & L Moore 5 9 3... S Wintworth 12

9 230-005 TEA PARTY (R9 (D) K Curnington-Brown 4 9 3 W Rys 10 041-612 CHARLESH LANE (L7) (CD) (RF) A Muholland 5 6 13

RETTING: 5.1 Reache Weltzer, 11-2 Carburton, 6-1 Knotty HEL Royal Carl BEI I WAL 5-1 MIRRO VORMEN, 13-2 CHICAGON, 6-3 MIRRO MR. MOYM CHI-ton, 7-1 Piessure Trick, 6-1 Mingdap Boy, 10-1 Manneck, Classosph Lone, 12-1 Gounde John, Noar On Tour, 16-1 Suzz Torando, 20-1 Tea Party,

4.15 RUFFORD SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m

- 7 decisned -BETTIMG: 4-5 Sersel, 100-30 Desert Invador, 8-1 Northern Fan, Sund-moor Desira, 16-1 Alicz Cyrono, Fing Fan, 20-1 Major Mouse

4.45 TUXFORD HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 4f 1 0042111- COMPASS PORTER (79) (C) J Eugace 4 9 11

2-05021 CAROL AGAIN (11) (CD) N Bycott 5 8 7 (Sec) ___ J Quien 12

14 00050/ HORTHERN CHARMER (493) E Akaon 5 7 10_J Fomle (7) 14 - 14 deci Minimum weight: 7st 10to. True transficap weights: Inovar 7st 8to, Roynoce 7st

To, Mr. Martiner, 7st 7st. Northern Chermor 7st 7fb.

Mr. Mr. Mr. Martiner, 7st 7st. Northern Chermor 7st 7fb.

METTING: 9-2 Kalammara, 5-1 Addison-Pard, 5-1 Raindoer Queest, Carol Again,
7-1. Mr. Moriarty, 9-1. Martine, 10-1 Compass Pointer, 12-1 Kilmanuriyan

Girl, 54-5 Rayal Accident, Another Quarter, 16-1 No Satunission, 20-1 In-

RACING RESULTS

WETHERBY 55.10. Computer Straight Forecast: £8.08. 2.50: 1. RIVER LINSPHON (P.Cachent) 4-11

£13.31 Treast £62.34 Tre: £19.70 NRs: Etomal City, Mode Trial. 3.26: 1. YOUNG KENNY (R Supplet 13-8; 5 mart Approach 8-1; 3, Milltary Acadomy 11-10 fav. 7 mm, 16; nl. (P Beaumont).

3.26: 1. YOUNG KENNY (R Supplet 13-8; 2.00; 1. MELLOW MASTER IR Farraru 20-1; 2. Neitham Tarn 12-1; 3. Bertleuftip 3td. 49: 12-14, 15-, (N Watter, Knyston Listel 34-9); 28-30; 2 2. Smart Approach 8-1; 3, Military Academy 11-10 tav. 7 mm, 16, ni., (P Beaumont). Totac £2.40; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £9.50. CSF: £13.49.

eydream Belever. 2,30: 1 MR BOSTON | Mr S Swers: 8-11 nr 2, Grandle Guest £1-1; 3, Colonial Kel-DF: 11.10, CSF: £3.37,
4.20. 1. COVERDALE LANE (Rothord Late; 1.20) and Late; 2. Grandele Guest £1.1; 2. Colonial Keltor, 3.0 in Inc.; 2. Gold Pigeon 8-1; 3. Garbor, 8ey 12-1. 9 ran. 3-1; fav D'Arbley Street Late; 1. Soc. £1.30, £3.10, £1.70, DF: 3.10, CSF: £10.08.

25.04. Treast: £230.35. Trio: £136.70. 4.50: 1. INTO THE WEST Richard Guest

£1-2; 2. Enchanted Cottage 11-8 fax; 3. Bassenhally 9-1. 7 ran. 4, dst. (Ars. S. Switt). Tota: £5.20; £2-40, £1.10. DF: £7.00. CSF:

3.00: 2. CARIBOO GOLD (JOSTOMS) 30: 11 tax; 2. Bolishle Barron 14-1; 3. Bilante Montherer 7: 1. 7 mm. 3, 1%. IN Balley, Upper Lamboumi, Totas: £1.80; £1.40, £4.40. DF: £10.40, CSF: £13.24. 3.20: 1. FLYNKS GUNDER: IN Messay, evers far; 2. Barroy Rill Lad 25-1, 3. Sarboutino 7-2. 15 mm. Ho. 3%... 10 Necholson, Temple Gutting), Totas: £2.10: £1.50, £5.00, £1.40. DF: £29.50, CSF: £38.30. Troc. £39.30. 4.00: 1. TEINEIN (N Williamson) 6-5: 2. High Learnin 7-1: 3. Arrier Moles £1.10 for. 8 mm. 1%, dist. (If Forster, Dournary), Totas: 8 nm. 1%, dat. (I Forster, Dourton), Total: £1.80; £1.40, £1.70, DF: £8.90, CSF: £8.76. 4.30: 1. BITOFAMDLIP (Mr P Hackeng) 7-2 co fav. 2. Ask Antony 7-2 co fav. 3. Broad Steame 7-2 co fav. 13 ren. 1-/s, 15. IM Roberts, Halsham, Totor 5-0,00; £2.50, £1.80, £1.50, DF: £9.80, CSF: £12.51, Troc

£3.10. DF: £29.50. CSF: £64.84. Treast: £482.23. Tro: £180.90. NRt Linksde, What Jim Wants.
Placepoi: £67.50. Quadgot: £4.90.
Place 6: £36.52. Place 5: £5.78. 3.00: 1. CARIBOO GOLD (J Osborne) 10-11 LUDLOW

2.10: 1. GREEN GREEN DESERT (D Brig-water) 9-1; 2. High in The Clouds 6-5 fav. 3. Fast 33-1. 18 sen. 3/s, sirk-hd. (D Sher-wood. Upper Lambourn). Folse: 59.70; 52.20, 51.10, 61.1-90. DF. 69-30. CSF: 518-34. Tiox E.5.00. NR. Ayrason Liv., Sant Bene't. E.5.00. NR. Ayrason Liv., Sant Bene't. E.00: 1. RED LIGHTER IJ Osbornel 12-1: 2. Elttefani 9-2: 3. Tüty 9-1. 12 ran. 4-1 fav Occumater 14th, 6. 3*1. LJ Old, Wroughnoti. 7oker £20.70: £3.30. £1.50,

13-2; 2. Operatio 13-2; 3. First Creek 7-1.
15 no. 5-1 ptas Desert Force, Mass Mangold.
2%, 3. (T. Thomson Jones, Upper Lambourn). Yoke: 59,00; 53-20, 52-40, 51-80.
DF, ESZ 70, CSY: 544-82, Tricest 52-91, 78.
This: \$102-20,
4.10: 1, CAPE COTTAGE 6M A Philips) 7-2.
Fox Pointer 5-2: 3. Inch Maid: 10-11 tox

2. Fox Pointer 5-2: 3, Inch Maid 10-11 tov. 8 mm. 3, % (D Caro, Malmestury), Tota: £5.30; £1.20, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £11.80. CSF: £12.23. 3. Feeli 33-1. 18 see. 37, shi hd. (O Sherwood Upper Lamboum). Toke: £9.70; £2.20.
£1.10, £1.19. DF: £9.30. CSF: £18.34. Ther.
£182.90.
2.40: 1. TELLICHERRY U Cudoyi 11-8 fav;
2. Coole Will 7-4; 2. Jeelin 3-1. 10 ren. Nr.
13. [Aless H Krayfi, Warningel. Toke: £2.20;
£1.10, £1.50, £1.40. DF: £3.10. CSF:
£3.94. 70: £2.90.
3.10: 1. RECTORY GARDEN (A Thomson)
11-8 fav; 2. Rectory Garden (A Thomson)
11-8 fav

I INGFELD 2.25: 1. A9-45 (A Sked) 5-2: 2. State of Gold 11-4; 3. Neon Delon 20-1. G ran. 15-8 fav Leg Beforum (4th). 2, 5. (M Johnston). Tota: £2.90; £1.30, £1.40. OF: £3.00. CSF:

2.55: 1. RAMSEY HOPE (A Felon) 10-1; 2.1. Lord Sity 11-2; 2. Sit Tantor 13-2. 7 m., 11-4 for Bowciffe Grange (4rt), 1½, 6th-hd. (C Fairmurs,). Tota: £12.50; £3.40, £1.80. Pf. £15.00. CSP. £55.20, 3.26: 1. RAMBASON (Condy Mores) 11-2; 2. Dawnib 7-4 for, 2. Anter's Continues 8-1. 6 mm. 1½, nk. (G I. Moore). Tota: £7.00; £2.00, £1.50, £2.20 DF: £7.00, CSF: £14.93. Nicest: £72.91. 7for, £27.50. NR: Island Proce. 3.55: 1 RUNDANG STAG (A Clark) 8-11

9.05. 2.56: 1. RAMSEY HOPE (K Falon) 10-1;

4-1. 6 ren. 1, 6, (R M Rower), Totaz £3.00, £1.30, £2.60, DF; £7.90, CSF; £13.50, NR 4.55; 1. EASTLEIGH (J. Quinn) 16-1; 2. Bagahot 11-4; 3, Tutgarunia 9-4 (av. 8 mm. 4, 3½, (R. Hollinshead), Tote: £12,70; £3.20, £1.10, £2.50, DF: £13.40, CSF: £55.08, Tricast: £127.57, 7fic: £23.10, NR:

bin Rashid Al Maktoum Challenge in record time at Nad Al Sheba, Dubai, vesterday, The Saced bin Suroor-trained Tamayaz, ridden by Frankie Dettori, finished second with the Jason Weaver-ridden, Mark Johnston-trained Gothenburg third.



British

Equestrlanism

There will be no shortage nf confidence among the top five British riders when they compete in the Paris Horse Show. which begins today at the Palais Omnisports de Bercy.

Four of them - John and Michael Whitaker, Geoff Billington and Robert Smith - filled the top four places in the Volvo World Cup qualifier at Bologna on Sunday. Nick Skelion, who missed the Italian show, was runner-up in the Bordeaux qualifier the previous weekend when

beaten by just 0.05sec. The Whitaker brothers have already qualified for the World Cup final, which will be held in Gothenburg from 30 April 10 4 May. Smith, Billington and Skelton will be hoping in make their places secure in the Paris qualifier on Sunday. If they all get through, Britain will have the biggest contingent of finalists since 1991 when John

Whitaker wnn nn Miltnn. Smith had nut given the final much throught until gaining 20 qualifying points with his victory at Olympia in December on Tees Hanauer. The 35-yearnld son nf Harvey Smith now needs about six further points, which he would callect far finishing 11th or higher in Paris.

Smith will probably rely on Tees Hanauer, now 17. on Sunday. He is anxinus to avoid putting pressure on Big Time. another of his mounts for Paris, hut the eight-year-old dark bay stallinn looks a wonderfully exciting prospect for the future.

Britain's reliance on older horses may at last be coming to an end. Virtual Village It's Otto, with whom Billington finished sixth in last year's Olympics, is still only 11; Skelton has a splendid partner in 10-year-old Zalza and Michael Whitaker's nine-year-old Ashley has shown impressive form.

These horses will all be in action in Paris, along with the chunky 10-year-old Barry Bug who is seen as a possible replacement for John Whitaker's elderly stars, Grannusch and Welham.

Bug, who used to be ridden by Whitaker's 16-year-old daughter Louise, still has plenty to prove.

- but he has made headway in the right direction, finishing third in competitive classes in oth Bordeaux and Bologna Whitaker is, however, expected to ride the more experienced 17year-old Welham on Sunday.

POINT-TO POINT MEETINGS IN MARCH

SATURDAY 1: BEAUFORT at Distinguition, CHID-Hall, TYNEDALE at Contridge. SUNDAY 2: SURTON at Market Rason. SOUTH DURHAM at Greet Stainton, SOUTH HEREFORD at Garmons, SOUTH MICLANOS AREA at Modlegton. SATURDAY 8: AVON VALE at Barbury Cap-

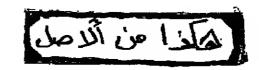
antibulary as AVUI VALE in Bastony Casties. BRCOON & TALYBONT at Liamitywaech,
CUMBERLAND FARMERS at Dataton, OERWENT at Charm Park, NORTH LEDBURY at
Upton-on-Severn, NORTH NORFOLK at Higham, OAILEY at Newton Bromzworld, SOUTH
CORNWALL at Great Trethew, SOUTH EAST
MINIST CULTURE OF CANADA TANADA TO HUNTS CLUB at Charing, TANATSIDE at Ev-

SUNDAY 9: BLANKNEY at Southwell, STAFF SUMDAY 9: BLANKNEY AT SOUTHWAIT, STAFF COLLEGE & RMA DRAG AT TWASSIGNAM, HOLD-ERNESS AT DEITON PARK, NEW FOREST BUCKHOUNDS AT LARKHIN, QUANTOCK AT SUCHRUMOS AT LANGUE, QUANTOCK AT COTHISTON WESTERN AT WARDENDING. SUNDAY 1.6: CARMARTHENSHIRE AT EW LOT., COTTESMORE AT GETHORPE, DART VALE & HALDON AT OTHER WART, EGLINTON AT LESSIN, ROSS HARRIERS AT GETHORS, WEST REET/TICKHAM at Detline

SATURDAY 22: CAMBRIDGESHIRE & Horseheath, CRAWLEY & HORSHAM at Partient. DURE OF BUCCLEUCH'S at Frian's Haugh, HURWORTH at Hutton Rudby, LAMERTON at Kinorthy, LLANGIBBY at Howles, MENOP FARMERS at Castle Of Constort, ALE OF THE MATTER TORSE at Skidlington, WILTON at Bad-hury Dode. bury Rings. SUNDAY 23: MIO DEVON at Clyst St Mary,

SIR W WYNN'S AT ERROR HAIL, SOUTH WOLD at Brocklesby Park. SATURDAY 29: ASHFORD VALLEY AT Char-ing, CATTISTICK at Little Windson, CLEVE. ing, CATTISTICK at Little Windoor, CLEVE-LAND at Stainton, CLFTCN-ON-TEME at Upper Sener ESSEY LAND at Stainhon, CLFTON-ON-ENA of Upper Supey, ESSEX at High Easter, MON-MOUTHSHIPE at Leavagley, MORTH STAFF, ORDSHIPE at Sandon, PERCY at Almylch, SPOONERS & WEST DARTMOOR at Cherrybrook, TEDWORTH at Barbury Castle, Unit-ED at Brampton Bryan, Vale of AVLESBURY at Visible, VALE OF LUNE at Whittington, WOODLAND PYTCHLEY at Dingley, MONDAY 31: EAST KENT at Aldington, EGGESFORD at Bishopsleigh, ESSEX FARM-ERS & UNION at Marts Tay, FOUR BURROW at Wadebridge, MORPETH at Transpell, NORTH COTSWOLD At Pardond, OLD BERK-SHIPE at Thompe, SOUTH MOTTINGHAM-SHIPE at Thompe, SOUTH PEMBROVESHIPE at Lydespp, SOUTH SHROPSHIPE at Eybon-South-Shipe, SOUTH SHROPSHIPE at Eybon-South-Shipe, SOUTH SHROPSHIPE at Eybon-SOUTH-SHROPSHIPE at Eybon-South-Shipe, SOUTH-SHROPSHIPE at Eybonat hydrops, SOUTH PEMBRUNESHRE at hydrops, SOUTH SHROPSHIPE at Eyton-on-Severn, SOUTHDOWN & ERIDGE at Hearthfield, STAINTONDALE at Chemic Park, TAURITON VALE of Kingston St Mary, VINE & CRAVEN at Hackgrood Park.







If the build-up to an England-Scotland match is "jar-ring", to quote Jack Rowell, and preparations for Ireland leave the players wondering whether they will still be in possession of all four limbs come Saturday night, where does that leave the annual set-to with the French?

Off the scale, that's where. Soaked in history and romance it may be, but the Five Nations' Championship still remains secondary in importance to its component parts. Each individual encounter generates and thrives within

its own unique atmosphere and Le Crunch, as this particular match always seems to be labelled these days, is way out there on its own. It took France 17 attempts to register their first victory over the English and when it finally came to pass in Paris exactly 70 years ago, the 3-0 scoreline was more prosaic than poetic. Since then, the pendulum of superiority has swung back and forth with compelling unpredictability.

Tight five hit the right spot

Parc des Princes, 2 February 1980

Six victories over

tested side pitched up at

turn out to be a Grand

the England dressing-

room were able to see any further than the

then traditional bome

victory, even though the Tricolores had gone un-der in Cardiff a fort-

Peter Wheeler knew

night previously.

become fully apparent only in the last quarter of a century, from the final match at Stade Colombes when the French chalked up a record victory over Les Rosbifs, through the unforgiving Fouroux era of the 1970s and the muscular English dominance of the early 1990s and into the new age of nip and tuck. Chris Hewett recalls 25 years of epic confrontation through the eyes of some of its most celebrated combatants.



pouble



English pride humbled by tunnel vision

France England Stade Colombes 26 February 1972

Pierre Villepreux fondly describes it as "un rugby de rêve", the rugby of dreams, and the Englishmen who suffered untold nightmares at the hands of Walter Spanghero's exquisite French side left Paris in the fervent hope that they would never again be subjected to such torture on the field of Colombes. They were granted that much, for this was the last international played at the famous old stadium, but there was no forgetting the extent of the humiliation.

France scored six tries in what remains their most emphatic victory over England and at the time, the indignity seemed even more wretched than it does today. Never had England conceded so many points in a full international and only once had they lost by such a margin - and that had been 67 years earlier in 1905. It is little wonder that Villepreux, the French full-back, recalls the occasion with a smile.

"On the psychological level it was ex-

tremely interesting because the players themselves had made a conscious decision to play totally spectacular running rugby; everything was based on attack, on running the ball and keeping it in the hand. Neither team could win the championship, so there was no pressure on us to

get a result. We felt free to try to produce the rugby of which we were capable. "I clearly remember the expression we used before running on to the field: We attack from the tunnel'. There was a tunnel at Colombes and you emerged from behind the dead-ball line at one end. That was our image for the day and it was a game in which the result was less impor-

tant than the way we played.
Jo Maso, Jean-Claude Skrela, Max Barrau and Walter all bad the same conception: quality, not quantity. As it happened, we won well, but it could have gone ter-ribly wrong. It was just that we didn't want to leave the field saying to ourselves: We didn't dare'."



better. The England Bill Beaumont (right) in accord with Jean-Pierre Rives

hooker, 18 caps into a "The whole game plan was based around our pack which, I have to say, was fairly mature. We had some outstanding magnificent international career, suspected that, not for the first time and certainly not for the last, the French had got it forwards, most of whom had been around wrong in selection. "I can remember thinking that they'd done the usual, by which I mean that they'd reacted to a defeat by tinkering around positionally and weakened for years hut, because our own selection had not been too bright, had not been giv-en the opportunity of playing together," themselves in the process. And when we saw the teamsheet, the evidence was there. Wheeler recalls. "It was a hard game: Philippe Dintrans,

There was all sorts of nonsense going on." one of the hest bookers I ever confronted, Indeed. The French selectors moved was brought in for the afternoon and that Alain Maleig from No 8, where he had played at the Arms Park, into the second certainly made life awkward. But Bill had grown into the captaincy and was a superb motivator by then and our control was spot row. There were debutants in every row of the scrummage as well as at full-back and the English tight five took full advantage, setting up tries for John Carleton and Nick Preston and two drop goal opportunities for

England: Bles J Carleton, N Prestort, Perstort, Perstort, P.



Sweet taste of success for Chilcott

England France 4 March 1989

Gareth Chilcott was always blessed with a graphic turn of phrase – it matched his approach to the game – so perhaps it is best to let Bath's folk-hero prop tell the story.

"At that time, the French had the thumbprint on us. We would go to Paris on a nice spring day, Blanco would fancy it end of story. But things were beginning to look up; the two previous encounters had been close-run things and we felt that if we could really apply ourselves up front, show concrete discipline - not easy for one or two of us, I'll grant you - and control the ball, we could take them.

"Sure enough, the French forwards showed signs of frustration pretty early and started dishing it out. There was all sorts going on but we soaked it up, got a lucky break in the first half when Will Carling caught their defence flat-footed after a

Andy Robinson tied it up late when we stuck it up our jumpers and worked him

stuck it up our jumpers and worked him over from close range. What pleased me more than anything, though, was that we sbut them out, kept them pointless.

"We scrummaged really well that day and rocked them back all afternoon. I was up against Pascal Ondarts, who had a bit of the nitty-gritty about him, while on the other side it was Paul Rendall against Portolan. They'd left out Garnet, a real hard. tolan. They dieft out Garnet, a real hard case, because they thought Portolan could do more around the field but as soon as they started struggling in the tight. Pertolan discovered a sudden injury and Garnet came trundling on. Paul was fairly depressed about that.

There was plenty happening at every ruck, maul, line-out and serum; in these days, you couldn't depend on the touch judges intervening or umpteen different camera angles to warn off the hit men. They had me down as a volatile player - rightly so, I suppose - but I was determined not to retaliate. How did I feel at the end? Tired, but incredibly satisfied."

Blanco finds genius beaten by the boot

France Twickenham 16 March 1991

Whisper it quietly and do not, on any account, let this slip to Brian Moore. The Grand Slam shoot-out of 1991 may have been an English triumph, a day when Rob and Rory and Teaguey and Deano and the Pitbull himself erased the memory of the Slow Walk at Murrayfield and brought home the bacon, but it was something else too. It was a day when anyone with a beart felt sorry for the French. Yes, sorry. Go on, admit it. They were desperate-

ly hard done by. Inspired gloriously from the back by the great Serge Blanco on his last visit to Twickenham, the visitors outscored England by three tries to one and would, under today's scoring values, ference, the championship as well.

Besides, Philippe Saint-André's try - The Try - was worthy of winning any championship you care to name. "I think it just summed up the French attitude on the day," says Blanco, who generated the whole wonderful thing from beneath his own posts. "We knew that for several seasons England had developed into a more and more dangerous side, that they were strong defensively and that there was no point in trying to challenge them purely on the physical level. Instead of trying to batter down the wall, we decided to run round them.

"England missed a penalty attempt, Pierre Berbizier fielded the ball behind the goal-line and I called for it. I made as if to touch down but saw that the English hadn't followed up the kick. so I took off." Lafond, Sella and Camberabero all worked the



have snatched a draw and, on points dif-

right touchline and when Saint-André gathered a delicate cross-chip to score at the posts, the whole of Twickenham knew they bad seen genius made flesh.

"The fact that it was my last game at Twickenham never crossed my mind, even when I ran out," Blanco says. "People were predicting that the English would eat us alive, so I was more concerned with proving the contrary. We had a deep-seated conviction that we would remain true to our intuition." But for Simon Hodgkinson's kicking, that intuition would have proved very sound indeed.

Scorers: England: Try R Und 4: Drop goal R Andrew.

Heslop draws the fire of France

England Parc des Princes, 19 October 1991

"Fiery," says Paul Ackford, five and a half years on. "Very fiery." And in truth, the World Cup quarter-final collision between two nations almost perfectly matched in all but attitude was as blood-curdling as rug-

The violent images are branded on the memory: the early targeting of Serge Blanco, the excesses of Eric Champ, Nigel Heslop's late tackle on Blanco and summary justice dispensed in a flurry of fists. But what a match, all the same. Perhaps the finest England performance in 20 years was forced from them by the brilliance of the French, a beady brew of iron discipline and commitment overcoming all manner of tem-

peramental extravagance.
"We were incredibly wound up for that game, but the crucial thing for me was that we were able to keep the lid on the passions we all felt," says Ackford, whose command of the line-out in the final quarter was at the very heart of England's victory. The moment I thought we might have them was when Nigel was decked by those punches early on. No one in a white shirt over-reacted and that indicated to me that we

could cope with living on the edge.

"The French could be incredibly physical, so fear was a big motivating factor. The fact that this one was a World Cup quarter-final just added something extra to the atmosphere in the dressing-room because we knew that if we lost, we were out. No one remembers losers, so it was now or never. The tension was

threequarter move of ours went wrong and

The wing Nigel Heslop (centre) found himself in the thick of the action

"My line-out performance may have looked good, but the French had a strange habit of throwing in a no-hoper, or a nonjumper at least, against me. I can remember Wade Dooley saying. How is it you get the easy guys while I get Olivier Roumat?'
I wasn't complaining, that's for sure."

After that game, the New Zealand referee David Bishop was

nanhandled by Daniel Dubroca, the French coach. Somehow, it was of a piece with what had gone before. As they probably say somewhere in Paris, pure frenzy takes a while to die down. st France: Try 1-8 Latond: Penalties T Lacron 2. England: Tries R Underwood, W Carling: Conversion J Webb; PenaRies J Webb 3.

Additional reporting: Ian Borthwick

Devils stand by Hope

ice hockey

Cardiff Devils will back their captain, Shannon Hope, when he contests a grievous bodily

harm charge resulting from an incident on the ice. The Great Britain captain and defenceman will appear in

in hospital with a double fracture of the cheekbone.

The incident occurred during the Superleague match between the country's top two teams in Sheffield on Boxing Day.

must

े trauma

Ele off

Leach was the club's leading scorer at the time and as a result of his injury, he missed a crucial part of Sheffield's unsuccessful attempt to beat the Welsh side to the Superleague title. The Canadian is pursuing a civil action for damages.

Henman set to slip down rankings after Korda gains revenge

Tim Henman, Britain's No 1, was comprehensively beaten 6-4, 6-4 by the Czech left-hander Petr Korda in the second round of the Italian Indoor Championships in Milan vesterday.

The score suggests a reasonably close contest but Korda dominated play from start to finish and the world No 14 could have no complaints.

with City Index?

Korda, who was ranked as anticipation when receiving and to 4-3 after Henman served his ghas No 5 in the world four although his serve was not so first double-fault of the match. high as No 5 in the world four ears ago, returned Henman's first serve superbly and when it came to baseline rallies the 29year-old Czech almost invariably came out on top.

What made Henman's defeat more frustrating was the fact that he hit far more first serves into court than his rival and also struck 10 aces to Korda's six.

although his serve was not so quick as Henman he dropped only 14 points in his 10 service Henman was under real pres-

sure from the fifth game where he saved two break points with service winners to hold on to a 3-2 lead, but that was the last time he led in the match.

That one break was enough to give Korda the first set in 34 minutes and, with his confidence high, Korda continued to make Henman struggle.

Henman saved another break point in the third game of the second set but dropped his service for the second time

Trailing 3-5, Henman saved a match point with his 10th ace and hung on to his service after six deuces. Then he had his defeat as well as the fact that he first break point in the follow-ing game at 30-40, only for Ko-tournament next week, where rda to take the next three points he reached the semi-finals last for victory.

The victory was revenge for Korda who lost to Henman in their only previous meeting, in

Henman looks certain to lose a few ranking places in the next two weeks following this

Korda's opponent in the quarter-finals will be the Czechborn German David Prinosil.

To: City Index Ltd., Cardinal Court, 23 Thomas More Street, London E1 9YY.

Sheffield Magistrates Court on to trail 2-3. That break again Korda had four more break the 1996 Australian Open. Henwho had a surprise 6-7. 6-2. 2 April over a challenge which proved enough although there man, then very much the un-was still some drama to come. derdog, won 5-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2. But the wily Czech, now points in the seventh game and 6-3 over Mark Philippoussis of left the Sheffield Steelers' Caeventually broke through to go ranked 29, showed outstanding nadian forward, Jamie Leach.

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CITY IND For a Great

Double-edged sword of football's hi-tech revolution

Clemente, who spoke out last autumn against using technology to prevent referees from making mistakes. "Arguments would end if football did that." he said, "and without arguments football will die." Such logic may be lost on Martin O'Neill right now.

After his side lost an FA Cup replay at Chelsea late in extra time on Wednesday, the Leicester City manager could not conceal his outrage. The only goal came from a penalty after the referee, Mike Reed, ruled that Matt Elliott had fouled Erland Johnsen, although television replays showed that the defender made no contact.

The incident generated a flurry of suggestions yesterday about hi-tech back-up for match officials. They ranged from the sensible - the machines used in tennis to indicate whether the ball is over the line - to the pseudo sci-fi - the electronic tagging

offside decisions.

Among the more plausible concepts given fresh currency by the controversy was that of an additional referee, stationed in front of a TV monitor. The game's world governing hody, Fifa, has sanctioned a match between France and Sweden next month in which the referee will be able to study replays on a screen at the side of the pitch.

If the technology is available runs that strand of opinion which views gadgetry as a metaphor for progress, it is wrong not to exploit it. Especially when, as happened at Stamford Bridge, the human cye has been deceived.

After all, other sports have benefited from the use of action replays and the freeze-frame facility. The photo finish is well established in horse racing, swimming and athletics. Test cricket has introduced a third umpire to arbitrate on runof players, like delinquents, to outs and stumpings. Moreover,

It was Spain's coach, Javier determine relative positions in A penalty that TV evidence showed to be unjust ended Leicester's FA Cup dream but, asks Phil Shaw, is a fourth official watching video replays the right solution?

> vited to re-examine an incident leading to a caution or sendingoff. If they admit they were wrong, the offence is expunged from the record.

There is, however, a vast dif-

Penalties are difficult. It is the referea's opinion that counts. He has to decide: Was it a fout, wasn't it a fout? The question of fouls is the most different and the statement of the stateme

ficult area. The others are comparatively

simple, We are taking about spock mar-het flotations, a lot of money involved, but will it be used on Hackney Marsh-es on a Sunday afternoon and will it be football? We are still in the middle

of the working party at the moment and, as someone who has trouble setting their video recorder could testify, it is

a little bit of a complex situation. Gra-ham Kelly, Football Association chief elecutive, on the prospect of using tech-

idence, with referees often in- ing a second look over tea and hiscuits at Lancaster Gate and the kind of instant decisionmaking process that might have prevented Leicester's exit. Part

I think it's inevitable that there will

be discussions about whether tech-nology can be used to ensure referees, make the right decisions, but it will be a question of degree. Technology could be used to decide whether the ball has

crossed the line but, in the case of grey

areas such as contact between play-ers and handbell decisions, it will sure-ly be impossible to have snyone other

than the referee making on-the-spot decisions. If it's going to take three or-four minutes for a fourth official study-ing four or five different carners angles

on a video, that would cause more prob-lems than it solves. Gordon Taylor, Pro-tessional Footbatters' Association chief

football already uses video ev- ference between a referee tak- predictable nature. In the words To take an example from the fiexecutive, it is a "fluid" sport compared with cricket and tennis, which he sees as "static".

If we use the corners to stop the

games after every incident, you would never finish the match. Seep Brother, Fifs general secretary.

and it would clearly be imprecited. John Carnidin, League Managers' Associa-

Rather than relieving the of foothall's universal appeal is strain on the referee, a "third its fast, physical and totally m-eye" could actually increase it. contact had been made, the

of Graham Kelly, the FA's chief nal of Euro 96, the Czech Republic's goal against Germany came from a penalty after Matthias Sammer was deemed to have felled Karel Poborsky. In theory, having decided unfair

Judgement day: Should the game adopt new technology? and players going to be present to weat before a decision comes back to the referse, and how many Camera angles, will you need to ansure that decision is absolutely right? Arthur Smith, Ref-eress' Association general secretary. If we had a fourth official in the stand : erees" Association general secretary.

The key is to improve both communications and information to the referee and ultimately we would want to record the position of players and the ball at every given moment. With comeras it is difficult to cover every angle, which is why I would suggest radio links and the electronic tegging of players. Professor Nigot Allinson, University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology Toommissioned by the FA. looking at a video, we could see games being held up for several minutes: That would make a nonsense of the game We are not adverse to new tech-nology. We would have to look at it, but it would have to benefit the game in general. What we all have to remem-ber is that football has always been a controversial game. So live have a third eye in the stand, how long are the crowd

sioned by the FA).

referee might have asked his colleague in the stand to check whether or not the challenge was inside the box.

If the answer were "yes", that would appear to be the end of the matter. But the Germans would have been entitled to argue that it was not a foul in the first place. The rows could rage on, turning football into a staccato sport not unlike its distant grid-iron cousin. The relentless tempo of the best British matches might be sacrificed as the

players milled about the pitch, awaiting a verdict from on high. If policing the penalty award is fraught with difficulties, what of the offside decision? In that Euro 96 final, Stefan Kuntz was certainly in an offside position when Oliver Bierhoff scored the winner, but was he interfering with play? No amount of computer wizardry could have taken responsibility for that decision out of the officials' hands.

Yet replays revealed that the

The Israeli national side met a united German team for the first time on Wednesday. The European champions won the friendly 1-0 thanks to a goal

from Darnis Worz five minutes from full-time, but the back-ground to the match was more

interesting than what hap-pened on the prich in Tel Aviv.

The day before the match,

the German squad paid hom-

sree -

"goal" by Spain's Julio Salinas against England, flagged offside by a linesman, ought to have stood. Synchronised cameras one on the player passing the ball and the other receiving it would theoretically have enabled the referce to to eliminate any doubt (and eliminated Eng-

land several days earlier). But do the public want the game held up while disputes are pored over? And which decisions will be referred? Unless a line is drawn, it is easy to envisage packs of players de-

the video every few minutes. Three decades on, the dehate over Geoff Hursi's second goal in the World Cup final can still snstain an Anglo German meeting for hours. As Sar Clemente intimated, in what was an exemplary display of magnanimity in view of Salinas misfortune at Wembley, arguments are an integral part of a game whose charm is bound up in its very imperfection.

manding that the referee consult

Business not pleasure for Hingis

John Roberts on the tennis prodigy who is returning home in triumph

Martina Hingis was only three said, "but the only suitable hall years old when last she saw the city of Kosice, her hirthplace in Slovakia and home to her father still. Yesterday, 13 years on, "Martinka" returned from Switzerland, a tennis prodigy, the youngest Grand Slam singles champion of the century and poised to become the youngest world No I in history.

The Slovak Tennis Federation considered it appropriate to hold the Fed Cup tic against the Hingis-inspired

Swiss tomorrow and on Sunday in Kosice rather than Bratislava, even though the ers are from the They have

given up home advantage." Hingis observed. guard to the squad on learning making plain her intention to that a large number of Slovak put husiness before pleasure. "I journalists had be didn't grow up here, so I don't the team's hotel. have any memories," she said place where I lived, but the most

the success. I want to win here." Jana Kvasnicova, of the Slo-vak Tennis Federation, dis-missed speculation that the other girls," Melanie said, invak Tennis Federation, dischoice of venue is designed to rattle Hingis. "The original idea

had already heen booked."

The visit to Kosice at least affords Martina the chance of a reunion with her father, Karol, and her paternal grandmother, "Bahitschka". Karol Hingis earns £102 per month as the caretaker of the Na Amicce Tennis Club and is helping with the organisation of the tie, which is indoors at the Mestksa Hala. Yesterday he met his daughter at Kosice airport with a bouquet. Such is the

fascination with 'I didn't grow up the 16-year-old Hingis, who here so I don't won the Australian Open have any singles title last month, that the memories Swiss tennis federation assigned a body-

iournalists had booked rooms at A Swiss television crew was Melanie, the team's non-playimportant thing is the team and ing captain, for paying too

dicating Patty Schnyder and Emmanuelle Gagliardi.



Martina Hingis (right), now close to being the women's world No 1, with her Swiss Fed Cup team-mates

sensation of Martina's return to Kosice, but she's not the

only member of the team." The youngster's sojourn cannot compare, however, with the emotional return of her namesake, Martina Navratilova, to Prague for the Fed Cup in 1986, the great champion's first visit home after defecting to the United States in 1975.

Hingis last saw her father in December, when he travelled to Brao, in the Czech Republic, to "In a way it's nice to see the rebuked by Hingis's mother, watch her play in an exhibition match. They stay in contact by telephone. "They just have a regular relationship," Melanie, much attention to her daughsaid, "as good as it can be if you are divorced." Since parting from her second

husband, Andreas Zogg, a Swiss computer salesman, Melanie "Everybody's trying to make a has reverted to her maiden

name, Molitor. She had explay the opposition. The Slovak pressed apprehension about team comprises Karina Habmaking the trip, recalling that "the time in Kosice wasn't one sudova, who has defeated Hingis in their three previous of the bappiest times of my life." matches, Katarina Studenikova, who eliminated Monica Seles in Melanie is from the Czech town of Roznov. A former tenthe second round at Wimble-

don, and Henrieta Nagyova.

play, win and leave."

Not that Hingis is lacking con-

The Wimbledon champion,

influence behind her daughter. fidence, "The Fed Cup is not as After leaving Kosice, they important to me as the other lived in Roznov at the home of tournaments, but it is important Melanie's mother until Martito play for Switzerland, and there is a chance to move up [to World Group I]," she said. "For ha was seven, at which point the pair emigrated to Trubbach in once I am going to do it like Stef-Switzerland with Mr Zogg. fi Graf -- go to the place, look,

"If Martina has any memories, they are of Roznov," Melanie said, "and most of them are things she has been told by oth-

nis player, she coaches Marti-

na and has been the driving

The only thoughts likely to preoccupy her during the weekend will concern ways to outmatic recovery. Hingis will supplant her at the top of the WIA rankings on Monday 31 March, becoming the youngest ever world No 1 at 16 years, six months and one day.

Monica Seles was aged 17 years, three months and 9 days when she became the youngest No 1 on 11 March, 1991, eclips-ing Tracy Austin, who was 17 years, three months and 26 days on 7 April, 1980. When Hingis was born, on 30

September 1980, Austin was the world No 1, Andrea Jaeger, aged 15, was in the process of becoming the WTA's Newcomer of the Year and Karoli Seles, a carcurrently nursing an injured left knee, has withdrawn from toonist in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, was making drawings of Tom and Jerry on tennis balls to encourforthcoming tournaments at Indian Wells and Key Biscayne. age his six-year-old daughter Monica to take a swing at them. Unless Graf makes a dra-

around the world

the German national anthem. while others stood while chew ing on watermelon seeds." On a less surreal note, Tot tenham's Ronny Rosenthal

age to the past with a visit to Jerusalem that documents the Holocaust. The atmosphere the following day inside Ramat Gan Stadium is described in immitable style by a local journalist, Danny Ben-Tal of As-

sociated Press "The German team's visit half a century after the end of World War II mieased a flood of ambivalent emotions in a country that still shuns the muskept Richard Wagner, Hitler's inverite composer, but snaps up German-made cars and washing machines. Some fans heckled during the playing of

had an impressive game up front for Israel.

Arsenal's Patrick Vieira made his international debut for France in Wednesday's friendly against the Netherlands in Paris, and watched his Highbury team-mate, Dennis Bergkamp, put the Dutch ahead in the third minute. However, two goals in the last 16 minutes from Patrice Loke and Robert Pires, both substitutes, gave

Elite suffer in Trophy

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

The GM Vauxball Conference's status as the country's elite

pon-League competition has suffered a series of setbacks in the FA Umbro Trophy this scason: it provides only five of the 16 teams contesting third-round ties tomorrow. Among the clubs trying to be-come the first from outside the

Conference to reach the Troph final since Leek in 1990 are Dorchester Town, who have an attractive home tie against Woking. The Dorset's key players are the former Plymouth, Swansea and Torquay play-maker, Russell Coughlin, and the striker Owen Pickard, once of Plymouth and Hereford, who is the top scorer in the Trophy with six goals and the joint lop scorer in the Dr Martens League Premier Division. Kidderminster Harriers trav-

el to Essex to take on the Icis League side, Heybridge Swifts. who will be looking for another peak performance from their midfielder Mitchell Springett. one of the best non-League players in East Anglia in the 90s. England's semi-professional side, playing their first fixture this season, suffered a disappointing 2-0 defeat to the Re public of Ireland in Dublin on Tuesday. Shelbourne's Stephen Geoghegan scored both goals for the home team.

BOT THE HOME CEARLY.

BRIGAND SEML-PROFESSIONAL XI: Cookery Hedresford: Giff (Yoovi), Howarth, Genthey thorth Macclesfett, Brown (Writing), Webb, Doherty tooth Kiddermested, Butterworth, Cramman, Laworthy tell Rushdern! Hughes (Viddermester), Substitutess; O'Coenser (Hedresford) for Doherty, 621; Kannaias; Hyde) for Hughes, 70; Hadlow (Famborough) for Webb, 74; Gothard (Dogenham) for Cooksey, 78.

Slough must shake off indoor trauma

Hockey

Slough return to outdoor action after their disappointing journey into the European indoor tournament in Amiens last weekend with a home fixture against Doncaster in the League tomorrow and another in the AEWHA Cup fourth round against Liverpool on Sunday, writes Bill Colwill.

Sam Wright, who missed the trip into Europe last weekend. will be back and the Irish international Sarah Kelleher will be making her long-awaited league debut. The Olympian Anna Bennett is still out after surgery before Christmas while another international. Lucy Cope, will be looking to regain her match fitness with the second XI. Slough's exach John Shaw expeets to play Kelleher in midfield.

On form. Slough should win both games. Victory in the first will keep the pressure on the leaders. Ipswich, who on Saturday seek revenge for a 3-0 defeat by Clifton earlier this season.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of grant video screens round the track that will be used at Silverstone for the Brush Grand Prix meet ing. Silverstone TV will broad cast at least 10 hours' live Programming each race day.

Halifax test West interest

Rugby League

The sacked Wigan coach. Graeme West, is the clear favourite to get the job at Halifax vacated by Steve Simms this week, writes Dave Hadfield.

West has been approached by the club to ask him to apply and has not ruled himself out of contention. "It's flattering to be linked with them. You would always have to be interested in joining such a good club," said West, who was dismissed from his job

become their football manager Before taking on the Halifax job. however, he would need to be reassured that he would be allowed greater control than he

Other candidates are the Keighley player-coach, Daryl Powell, Hull KR's Steve Crooks. and Tony Anderson, from Halifax' existing coaching staff. The Halifax football manager, David Hobbs, who is in temporary charge of team matters, said "No one candidate is preferred at Central Park after refusing to over another at the moment."

Navy come to the rescue

Bertrand de Broc, the Vendée Globe solo sailor, became the fourth competitor to be rescued in the 1997-98 round the world race when he was picked up by a French Navy tanker 5100 miles from the finish vesterday, writes Stuart Alexander.

His distress signal was picked up by two other ships when they were just 60 miles away from De Broc. They raced to the scene and reported that De Broc's two months.

60ft yacht was capsized with the skipper standing on the upturned hull.

De Broc is the fourth competitor who has had to be rescued after Britain's Pete Goss picked up Raphael Dinelli in the Southern Ocean and the Australian Navy effected the dramatic recovery of Tony Bullimore and Thierry Dubois

A fifth competitor, the French-Canadian Gerry Roufs. has been missing for nearly

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Transsere v Stoke (7.45)... Transer v Suke (7.45)

THERD DIVISION
Colchester v Scarborough (7.45)

Doncaster v Wigan
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

THIRD DIVISION Albion Rovers v Cowdenbeath JEWISON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Newmarket v Sonam (7,45). HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RE-LAND Premier Division: Bohomians v St Panck's Americ (7.45); Dundali v Deny Cry (7.45); Shamrock Rovers v Bray (7.45).

Basketball **BUDWEISER LEAGUE:** Worthing Bears v Chester Jets (8.0).

Rugby Union

A INTERNATIONALS: England v France (7.30) for Leicessen's Scotland v Ireland y 4.0) (a) Myreside, Edinburghi. UNDER-21 INTERNATIONALS: England v

land (2.30) (at Myreside). CLUB MATCHES: Gata v Sellork (7.15); Haw-ick v Nelso (7.15); Peebles v Metrose (8.0); Musselburgh v Boroughmuir (7.0).

SOWILS: Women's English National Indoor Championship (York). BOOMS: Professional promotion: Non ti-tle flyweight correct: P War (Soo) v A Han-ne (Birmengham) (Grand Hall, Kilmarnock). SWINDING: British Club Team Champion-ships (Stockport).

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics Active Citizs, with more major medels to her name than any other athlete in history, is being lined up to take part in the Colin Jackson-organised Weish Games in Cardiff on 31. May, But Jackson, a training partner of Ottey's, is hopeful the 36-year-old, who has won 34 major championship medals, will include the Games on her venues for a planned world tour which will probably mark her retirement.

Basketball

NBA: Saramente 111 Boston 105; Detroit 117 Golden State 117; Orlendo 96 Mezre 98; Indians 92 Sectite 78: Allenta 79 Minesikes 72; Minnesota 108 San Antonic 89; Proents 111 Philadelphia 103; IA Cappers 83 Van-couver 80; New York 96 Porstand 95 (ol).

Rifferds

CHINART USO
STRACHAN UK CHAMPIONSIMP (Normich Sport Village) Third round: O Causer (Engl of R Foldwari (Ans) 665-423; S Mullant (Ind) bt P Gildmat (Engl 992-541; Williamson (Engl of M Refam) lind 500-266; R Chapman (Engl of M Spoormans (Bel) 731-276.

Ryan Rhodes intends to make his mark on British right history by defeating Nottingham's Del Bryan at Reading's Rivermead Centre on 14 March. A repeat victory over the former British welterweight champion will win Rhodes a Londale Belt outright in the record une of 90 days. Rhodes, who gained a 118-second defeat of Pater Waudity in the second defeat of Pater Waudity in the deweight at Sheffield on Tuesday, best Bryan on a close points decision at a six-round contest late last year.

Durham have completed their third signing of the winter by securing Martin Spelight from Sussex on a threa-year contract. The 29-year-old former Durham University student opted for the north least after being offered the chance to resurrect his wickerkeading

Cycling
TOUR OF LINGSHAM Nich stude (184km.
Rush Torregueur to Rote Bahrs, Misbeysko;
1 A Tali (N) 3rt 3 (mm 11ser; 2 M McCormack
(LS) stime time; 3 C Agrokuto (R) 4-3ec; 4 D
Beyrnat (M+116ser; 5 O Aeroper (Nero); 6 P
Dukurn (Bell; 7 N Lota (R) 8 M Westert (Ser);
9 F McCormack (US); 10 1 Metater (Lapar) at
anne time. Overall standings; 1 L Script 60
26rt 5 (rm 40ser; 2 J Volg Mays + 224eer;
3 F Br (2) + 2-26; 4 A Lecch (R) + 2-31; 6 A
McLaon (SA) + 2-46; 6 S Lawrenier (Ra) + 2-53;
9 P Bordeniere (R) + 3-27; 3 P Better (N) + 2-53;
9 P Bordeniere (R) + 3-27; 10 V Ordonde (Gar)
+ 3-54.

Football

Oxford United have signed Brian Wilsterman, a 30-year-old Dutchman, on a byo-

Beigian dute, Beerschot, on a free trans-fer. Oxford have been looking for a re-placement for Matt Elliott since selling the centre-half to Lefcester for a dub St Helens, who, along with Wigan, were fined £15,000 for a brawt during the Chattenge Cup tie between the two clubs, have called for the right of appeal against record £1.6m. They also want a system of food penalties, similar to the one that op-erates in football, to apply to players."

The administrators running the debt-laden Hull Kingston Rovers have rejected a £924,000 takeover bid by a consor-form headed by Bob Jamieson because of "Insufficient financial guarantees."

procedent for Matt Ellicit Since selling the centra-half to Lefoester for a club record £1.5m.

SELI'S SCOTTESH LEAGUE Re-enranged to-burse. Sit 8 Mart Homenon v Durfermitre. The 11 Mart Rimerrook v Obte.

WEUNESDAY'S LUTE RESULTS: FA Cop Gither count Detry 3 Coverny 2 (Berly home to Middlesbraugh). Fish-cent replace, Chiche 1 Lecotor o Infor extra limit. Chicken a levely to Perferough). Coop. Cale Cop Send-Real first legistrough. Fish-cent legistrophy. Cale College Send-Real first legistrophy. Coop. Cale Cop Send-Real first legistrophy. Cale 2 Hiberhalm O (Colit at home to Renging). Hamilton O Motherwool 2 Ref Groadwood Stecken. Cambrimathy. Michardwell swey to Dunder United. Bet's Scottist League Fresche Division: Uniformatic Alcohomy of Colleges and Division: Uniformatic Colleges Second Division: Uniform Division: Design of Colleges of Northlest Sends Division: Uniform Send League Frencher Division: Design of Proceder Sends Division: Design of Proceder Sends Division: Design Division: Design of Market Destar Design of Northlest Company of Northlest Design of Northlest Company of Northlest Design of Wales: Carrier On Front of Aborators Design of Wales: Carrier Design of Design of Design of Northlest Design of Wales: Carrier Design Design of Design of Design of Northlest Design of Wales: Carrier Design of De

ice hockey HBEL: Chicago 2 Hartford 2 (od); New Jersey 5 NY Standers 3: Prisadelphia 2 Octova 5; Wash-Ingon 3 Tootro 1: Proents 5 Calgary 2; Edmonton 3 Anchem 3 (od).

A 23-year-old member of the Russian national squad was lelled by a single blow to the neck during a local championship bout at the weekend in the city of Penza, "It was a fatal coincidence, a 1 in 10,000 chance," said Alexan-

Rugby League Poetball
Oxford United have signed Brian Wisterman, a 30-year-old Dutchman, on a twoand-a-quarter year contract, from the
until the end of the 1998 season. Rugby Union

Rungiby Ucalion

SCOTLAND A (r Invitand A, Myreside, today):
Diase (Martiny (Howland, A, Myreside, today):
Diase (Martiny (Howland, A, Contag (Meet of Southerd),
C Martiny (Howland, R Efficacies (London Scotterd), J Mart (Mattoniend), A Downstown (Currer), e Berner (Mesonente, P Wright (Mohroes),
G Ballach (Meet of Scottend), 5 Forgasson (Peobled), 3 Meetry (Bestlond), 3 Gines (Mosoniend), 5 Field (Boptughtmath), C Hogg (Metroes, copt), 3 Hodeson (London Scotteris), Replace-treate: S Lang (Heriot's FP), 5 Nichot (Metroes), 1 Field (Boptughtmath), C Hogg (Metroes), 1 Field (Metroes), 1 Medical (Metroes), 2 Medical (Metroes), 1 Medical (Met

Wiften which the terms of a deal proposed by the trems of a deal proposed by the Wiften Athletic Polarina. by the Wigan Athletic chairman, Dave Whelan, are unacceptable. Whelan had offered to buy the ground for E4m. redevelop it and lease it back to the rug-

Jamieson tried and falled to take over Workington last year.

WORERT'S WORLD RANGES: 1 S Ptz-Gerald (Aus.), 2 M Morth (Aus.), 2 C Jackman (Eng., 4 2 Woyst (Eng., 5 L Ivvng (Aus.), 6 2 Homer (Eng., T C Owens (Aus.), 8 S Schone (Ger.), 9 C Nigh

Tonnis

Britain's Jamie Delgado gained a sur-prising win over Denis van Uffelen yes-lerdey, upsetting the Belgion second seed 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, in the semi-final of the ITA Men's Satellite Masters at Croydon. In today's final Delgado faces the No 3 seed, Mikael Stadling of Sweden, who defeated the leading Briton, Andrew Richardson 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, though Richardson still wins the circuit with a two-point margin over Van Uffele I.

(GB) bit D Van Uffelen (Bet) 6-2 2-6 6-3.
WORNEN'S CHALLENGER (Busher) Singles, second round: O Beraberschikova: (Beta bit Singles, second round: O Beraberschikova: (Beta bit Singles, second round: O Beraberschikova: (Beta bit Water (Beta) bit C'Mood (GB) 6-4 6-2; L Cotansa: (But M Sancher-Lorence: 199) 6-3 6-7 7-8; R Sandtu (Rom) bit Singles Ger 6-4 6-3; 7-5; V Csurgo (Hurri bit M Nocitia (Ger) 6-4 6-3; 7-5; V Csurgo (Hurri bit M Nocitia (Ger) 6-3 6-6-3; D Chaldkova: (Cz Rep) bit P Gaspa: (Hurri 6-3 6-4).

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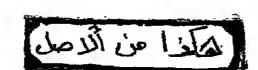
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Coppell in line to replace Bassett

ALAN NIXON

Steve Coppell, who walked out of Manchester City less than four months ago after only 33 days at the club, is in line to return to management with Crystal Palace. Coppell is understood to have been offered the chance to manage Palace for a second time following yesterday's surprise announcement that Dave Bassett is leaving to become general manager of

Stuart Pearce, Forest's caretaker player-manager. A cluh spokesman said: "He will be responsible for everything that Stu-art Pearce doesn't have time to do. Stuart will still be in charge of all team affairs and Dave will be there to support him."

A statement from Palace said that Ron Noades, their chairman, "has been left reeling at the decision and cannot at this stage give any indication who is going to be running team affairs in the

However, it is believed the job has been offered to Coppell, following his dramatic departure from Manchester City.

The former England international was the most successful manager in Palace's history in his first spell at Selhurst Park. He returned as director of football two years ago, but left last October to join Manchester City. Within a month, however, he had left Maine Road because of health problems caused by what he described as "the huge pressure"

Coppell had taken the City post after Bassett had declined

work for Palace in recent weeks it and decided to remain at Palace. To complete the irony of vesterday's events, Forest have recruited Bassett in the wake of the departures of Frank Clark and Alan Hill, their manager and assistant manager respectively, who are now in

charge at Manchester City.

The Forest spokesman said that Bassett had been brought in "to replace Alan Hill", though the job appears to be much higher-profile than that. Pearce has little experience of buying players and negotiating lieved to have agreed a deal

worth around £400,000 a year. is likely to assume responsibility for these areas.

Bassett said: "I'm not going to be selecting the team or coaching or deciding the tactics. Stuart Pearce is going to be do-ing that. He's happy for me to come in - had be not been I wouldn't be going to Notting-ham Forest. He's happy for me to give him the support and ex-perience he needs. 1 have known Stuart for quite a long time. It's going to be a joint situation, but I am not stepping on his toes and I will be doing my best to help him."

He added: "It's a correct de- to buy new players cision for Dave Bassett, for his career, professional and financial situation and also domestically."

Despite moving to Palace a year ago, Bassett has kept his family home in Yorkshire. He has always wanted to join a big club and is likely to have been attracted by the ambitious plans of Forest's new owners. A consortium headed by Nigel Wray, the owner of Saracens rugby union club, and Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham chairman, won control of Forest this week and has pledged to

Bassett took Palace into the First Division play-off final last season, only to be beaten in the last minute of extra time by Steve Claridge's winning goal for Leicester City. After a promising start to this season Palace have slumped in recent weeks

and have struggled to keep pace with their promotion rivals. Bassett added that his announcement had-come as a shock to Noades, the Palace chairman. "We are still friends, but he's disappointed and I am

Premier League chooses Leaver

Peter Leaver, a leading barris-ter, was yesterday named by the Premier League as its new chief executive. The 52-year-old deputy High Court judge and former Tottenham Hotspur director replaces Rick Parry, who has held the post since the gue's launch in 1992 but will now join Liverpool in a similar capacity when his contract expires in June.

I am lucky that Rick Parry will still be around to guide me, said Leaver, who starts work officially on 3 April. "As a passionate, lifelong football fan I have looked in from the outside and have certain ideas of what things could be changed.
"But I've learned from my ex-

perience at the bar that it is not sensible to try and do so until you completely understand all the issues involved. In other words, I start with an open mind

on everything."

Leaver will become one of the game's most important be-hind-the-scenes figures, with the Premier League facing major discussions over television coverage and the imminent arrival of pay-per-view, and also over the future of club football in Europe. His salary will be £200,000 per year. Arsenal have revealed that an

exploratory operation on David Seaman's injured knee has been successful, but that the England alkeeper will not return to action for at least a month. The 33vear-old entered hospital for an arthroscopic probe in which a miniature camera revealed a small tear in the cartilage, which has now heen removed. He damaged the knee in a freak accident at home three weeks ago

Police have decided not to take any action following the mass brawl between Chesterfield and Plymouth Argyle players in a Second Division fixture on Saturday. Four players were sent off by the referee, Richard Poulain, after Plymonth's goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, was concussed at a corner. The police have decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Football Association.

Wigan Athletic want to take Manchester United's Northern Ireland international centrehalf, Pat McGibbon, on loan with a view to a permanent deal. Chesterfield have agreed a £30,000 fee for the Huddersfield Town striker, Iain Dann, while their FA Cup quarter-final opponents, Wrexbam, have offered £100,000 for the Aston Villa forward Neil Davis.

Lloyd plans more time for training

MARK BALDWIN

David Lloyd has already mapped out plans for Eng-land's travels in the West Indies next winter - including a twoweek preparation stay in Antigua and time with families later in the tour.

Lloyd, the England coach, believes lessons should be learned from this winter's campaign io Zimbabwe and New Zealand, both in terms of preparation and itinerary. A pre-Christmas trip to Sharjah, for a one-day tournament also involving the West Indies, Pakistan and India, has already been arranged by Lloyd - hut he feels that more practice and time for fitness work needs to be done in the West In-

dies before the tour begins.
When we arrived in Zimbabwe we were fit, but they caught us cold by picking damn near a Test side in the first game, Lloyd said. "I don't want to be caught out like that again". England will now leave for the West Indies early in the new year and Lloyd is planning to have a couple of 100 overs per-side warm-up games arranged for the initial fortnight.

The Cambbean programme includes five Tests and five oneday internationals, with the one-dayers coming at the end

concentrate on England's final two one-day internationals in New Zealand and yesterday he talked about the competitive environment now being encouraged within the England set-up. We now have a strong nu-cleus of players - especially when you look at what we have achieved this winter." he said. "The Under-19s went to Pakistan and won, the A team went to Australia and won and

No. 3234. Friday 28 February

Heads back for German

A duty to protect HM's

They're suitable for draw-

ers, these facial features

10 Poet's kingdom, Arabian at

11 Ruination? Or a hit in EC?

12 Gather mould, note, on

13 Saw one dropped rattled

heart (4)

the turn (b)

piano work (8)

letters (6)

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ve have been successful in New

Today sees the start of the first Test betweeo South Africa and Australia in Jobannesburg - and for once the fast bowlers will be overshadowed by the batthe between the two leg-spin-ners: Shane Warne and Paul Adams. Both sides are aware of the match-winning potential both men possess

The Australian coach, Geoff Marsh, said: "We've spent a lot of time watching Adams on video and the boys are looking forward to playing against him. We've formulated a few ideas on how to play him and the guys are relishing the challenge."

Marsh's South African counterpart, Boh Woolmer, said; "People are saying that since his operation Warne doesn't pose the same threat, but I think it's more a question of exposure. Like everyone in cricket, once people get used to you, you have to work harder for your wick-ets, but Shane remains a class act and we regard him very high-

However. Warne has been overshadowed of late by the emergence of Michael Bevan as a Test-class back-of-the-hand howler. Bevan's pace through the air is in his favour on a Wanderers pitch that is not likely to offer quick turn even to Warne Australia are expected to in-

clude the young left-hander Matthew Elliott at No 3, with Matthew Hayden opening the batting with Mark Taylor. They have been carrying a number of niggling injuries, but expect to be able to select their strongest side, with the pace bowler Ja-son Gillespic looking set to share the new ball with Glenn McGrath. Jonty Rhodes, whose fielding will be valuable, may return to the middle order in place of Adam Bacher.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Story's point' Continue

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28 Feeble, lady's man? Not

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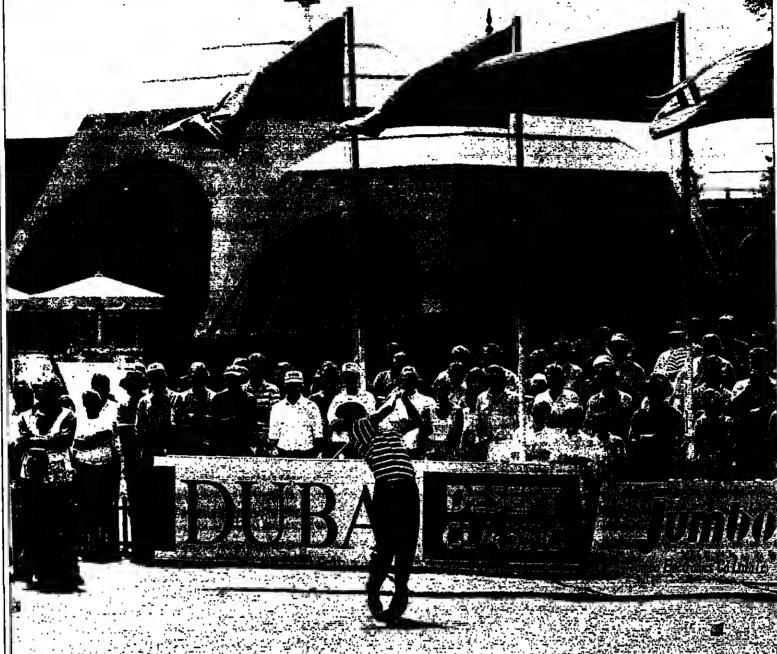
Stone idol? Wrong, wood-

troduced by author (5)

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Edward (9)



Back in the big time: Jose Maria Olazabal tees off in the Dubai Classic yesterday after an 18-month absence with arthritis

is TV the answer to bad refereeing?

drawn, it is easy to envisage packs of players demanding that the referee consult the video every few minutes'

Phil Shaw, page 27

Olazabal back on his feet with round of 69

ANDY FARRELL reports from Dubal

In the gloaming that is the rapid twilight of the Middle East, a beacon of European golf was relit. With a sand wedge in his hands, Jose Maria Olazabal hit his third shot at the par-five finishing hole to three feet for his fourth hirdie of a day that

he has waited for so long.

A round of three-under 69 after a hreak of 18 months with a arthritis of the feet was highly impressive. The Spaniard never did look that comfortable wheo walking, hunched for-ward and rocking from side to side, but the limp that developed two years ago was missing. Certainly present was the dismissive shrug when a putt re-

fused to fall. Early morning fog had delayed play in the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic which meant Olazabal did ont tee off

until 1.50pm. The reception was warm and his gallery only dwindled to catch the dramatics in

the group in front. Collectively they were 19 under. Colin Montgomerie began the defence of his title with a seven-under 65, to tie with Spain's Domingo Hospital for the lead, while Padraig Har-rington and Bernhard Langer were both at six under, alongside two former champions Mark James and Eamonn Darcy. "I think it is terrific for Jose break 70," Montgomerie said. "That will give him a lot of confidence and all of us a lot of confidence."

A poor chip at the ninth caused Olazabal's only dropped shot which is testament to his short game. Having turned in level par, the Masters champion of 1994 holed from 30 feet at the 15th and 18 feet at the oext before also claiming the

nothing dramatic. I hit the ball OK, but nothing very close. At the end, when I didn't expect it, I holed a couple of long putts. One of the things I have missed most is the competition but to-

day I just told myself to do my And the feet? "I don't want to talk about that," he said. Greg Norman, playing his first full tournament for three months, actually looked the more rusty of the two and found the water twice during his 71. The same could not be said of Montgomerie, who, when he did go off line into the faded a two-iron out of trouble to two feet.

"It is always nice to be able to tap in for an eagle," Monty, who also recorded five birdies and no bogeys, said. "Padraig putted as well as anyone I've seen and I enjoy playing with Bernhard Langer. He is always "I am pretty happy with the result," Olazabal said. "I was a a nice guy to beat," he added.

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Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

The Irish used to react to calamitous rugby setbacks by describing the situation as "critical, but not serious". England's sixtry romp in Dublin a fortnight ago seems to have concentrated a few minds wonderfully. however, and Brian Ashton, the former Bath coach who has been working with the national team in an advisory capacity since January, was vesterday

Ashton is now Ireland's national coach and the deal takes him through to the 2003 World Cup - an unprecedented term. not only for Ireland but for any major Test-playing country.

Ironically, it is still less than two cause for concern, but intensi mooths since he walked out no Bath expecting to sign on at his local social security office.

It now seems likely that he will sit on selection with Pat Whelan, the Irish team manager, and an as yet unnamed third committee member. Ashton, a 49year-old former scrum-half who toured with England in Australia in 1975, will probably continoe to live in Somersel. England, meanwhile, received

the filness news they had been hoping for all week when Richard Hill, the Saracens openside flanker, declared himself fit to face France at Twickenham tomorrow. Leicester's Neil Back trained with the squad on Wednesday as cover for Hill, and is rated extremely doubti whose sprained ankle had given for the championship finale.

treatment allowed the 23-yearold first choice to pass muster in a vigorous session yesterus).
Wales, who do not have a

Five Nations match this weekend, are not enjoying any such luck on the mjury front. Arwel Thomas, their precocious outside-half, had a knee put in plas ter yesterday after picking up an injury during Swansea's Swalec Cup victory over Pontypridd at the weekend.

Although Welsh sources expect him to be fit in time to face England in Cardiff on 15 March, there was more concern about Thomas' club colleague, Christian Loader. The loose-head prop has undergone knee surgery and is rated extremely doubtful

15 Sweet sound of brass with When not to mind one's own business? (5,7,3) Suit established by the 18 Senses, or suffers, irritation 19 Blow one's nose (4) 21 Shelter provided by two players (8) Dogs, menaces, hiting Henry (5) 24 Articles concealing correspondent's last letter (5)

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Silver left in crown! (5)

Irish give Ashton six-year deal

awarded a six-year contract.